SPECIAL EXPANDED EDITION!

THE RING

the RING

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

A Bad Decision Leads To A Good Decision
FOREMAN FINALLY CALLS IT QUITS

Into The New Millennium With The Real Deal:

THE RING'S TIM[illegible]E f[illegible] EVAN[illegible] HOLY[illegible]D

THE DAY I [illegible] TITLE
[illegible]0 Champio[illegible] The Day
That Chang[illegible]ves

HERNANDEZ vs. HERNANDEZ
Friendship Aside,
This Was A War!

$3.50 U.S. $4.50 CANADA £2.65 U.K.

03

0 22627 00396 7

MARCH 1998

EVERLAST® U.S.A. Choice of Champions®

UNION IBO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BOXING

EVERLAST® U.S.A. Choice of Champions®

LATEST IBO WORLD RATINGS AS OF OCTOBER 15, 1997

HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Brian Nielson 1-Lennox Lewis 2-Evander Holyfield 3-Michael Moorer 4-Ray Mercer 5-Kirk Johnson 6-Michael Grant 7-Ike Ibeabuchi 8-David Tua 9-Don Steele 10-George Foreman

CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: James Toney 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Uriah Grant 4-Fabrice Tiozzo 5-Robert Daniels 6-Kenny Keene 7-Don Diego Poeder 8-Kenny Murphy 9-Rick Roufus 10-Tiwon Taylor

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Roy Jones Jr. 2-Dariusz Michalczewski 3-Montell Griffin 4-William Guthrie 5-Fredrik Alvarez 6-Lou Del Valle 7-Virgil Hill 8-Jose Luis Rivera 9-Chris Eubank 10-Michael Nunn

SP.MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Steve Collins 2-Frank Liles 3-Robin Reid 4-Joseph Kiwanuka 5-Roberto Duran 6-Charles Brewer 7-Henry Wharton 8-Vinny Pazienza 9-Jorge Castro 10-Omar Sheika

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Freeman Barr 1-Bernard Hopkins 2-Julio Cesar Green 3-Keith Holmes 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-William Joppy 6-Rual Frank 7-Paul Vaden 8-Quincy Taylor 9-Lonnie Bradley 10-Jerry Brown

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Laurent Boudaouani 3-Winky Wright 4-Raul Marquez 5-Terry Norris 6-Julio Cesar Vasquez 7-Kieth Mullings 8-Hector Camacho 9-Nick Rupa 10-Anthony Stephens

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Jose Rivera 1-Felix Trinidad 2-Oscar De La Hoya 3-Ike Quartey 4-Pernell Whitaker 5-Jose Luis Lopez 6-Oba Carr 7-Michael Loewe 8-Patrick Charpentier 9-Vernon Forrest 10-Anthony Jones

JR. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Vince Phillips 2-Miguel Angel Gonzalez 3-Khalid Rahilou 4-Kostya Tszyu 5-Frankie Randell 6-Julio Cesar Chavez 7-Paul Nava 8-Alfonso Sanchez 9-Hector Lopez 10-Rodney Wilson

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Shane Mosley 3-Steve Johnston 4-Phillip Holiday 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Marco Rudolph 10-Billy Irwin

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Genaro Hernandez 3-Yong Soo Choi 4-Angel Manfredy 5-Joel Casamayor 6-Azumah Nelson 7-Arnulfo Castillo 8-Julien Lorcy 9-Dennis Holbaek 10-Jesus Chavez

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wilfredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Franciso Segura 6-David Toledo 7-Radford Beasley 8-Kevin Kelly 9-Orlando Canizales 10-Welcome Ncita

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Junior Jones 2-Vuyani Bungu 3-Antonio Cermino 4-Erik Morales 5-Marco Antonio Barrera 6-Wayne McCullough 7-Kennedy McKinney 8-Daniel Zaragoza 9-Rico Siodora 10-Lehlohonolo Ledwaba

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Tim Austin 2-Robbie Regan 3-Nana Konadu 4-Daorung Siriwat 5-Jorge Julio 6-Sirimon Nakornthornparkview 7-Paulie Ayala 8-Mbulelo Botile 9-Veeraphol Sahaprom 10-Patrick Quka

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Johnny Tapia 2-Gerry Penalosa 3-Yokthai Sith Oar 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Luis Bolanos 6-Ratanchai Sor Voraphin 7-Abbey Mnisi 8-Danny Romero 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

FLYWEIGHT Ch: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Mark Johnson 3-Jesus Zuniga 4-Jose Bonilla 5-David Guerault 6-Carlos Salazar 7-Saen Sow Pleonchit 8-Arthur Johnson 9-Jesper D. Jensen 10-Chatchai Dutchboygym

JR. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Saman Sorjaturong 3-Keji Yamaguchi 4-Jake Matlala 5-Mel Cob Castro 6-Hi-Yong Choi 7-Maricio Pastrana 8-Mzukisi Sikali 9-Jesus Chong 10-Will Grigsby

MINI-FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Ratanapol Sow Voraphin 3-Rosendo Alvarez 4-Juan Herrera 5-Alex Sanchez 6-Kermin Guardia 7-Song Porpaoin 8-Chana Porpaoin 9-Rolando Tuyugon 10-Edgar Cardenas

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON UPCOMING BOUTS CONTACT: IBO CHAIRMAN JOHN DADDONO AT (561) 776-9464 OR FAX (561) 776-9392.

FOR RATINGS INFORMATION CONTACT: KURT NOLTIMIER AT (612) 922-6498

Photo by Holly Stein

BOXING GLOVES

★ Superior quality "DURAHIDE" synthetic leather.
★ No laces - EVER-LOK wrist strap.
★ Specially curved for natural grip.

Model 2062-12oz.	$30.00 Pair
Model 2064-14oz.	$32.00 Pair
Model 2066-16oz.	$34.00 Pair

NEW

PLUS SALES TAX and SHIPPING

WRITE OR CALL FOR YOUR FREE FULL COLOR CATALOG.
"Se Habla Español"

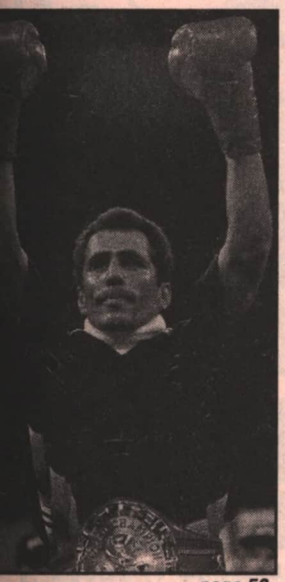
EVERLAST SPORTS MFG. CORP.
750 East 132nd Street, Bronx, NY 10454
(718) 993-0100 • Fax (718) 665-4116
Toll Free: (800) 221-8777

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

EVERLAST® U.S.A. Choice of Champions®

CONTENTS

March 1998



page 50

FEATURES

19 **FOREMAN FINALLY CALLS IT QUITS**
A Bad Decision Leads To A Good Decision
by Ron Borges

22 **INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH THE REAL DEAL**
THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield
by Tim Graham

27 **THE DAY I WON THE TITLE**
10 Champions Recall The Day That Changed Their Lives
by William Dettloff

50 **HERNANDEZ VS. HERNANDEZ**
Friendship Aside, This Was A War!
by Ivan Goldman

54 **"CYCLONE" JOHNNY THOMPSON**
The Secret Of The Lightweight Who Won The Middleweight Title
by Bill Shutte & Pete Ehrmann

Cover:
Evander Holyfield by Al Bello/Allsport
Briggs-Foreman by Marty Rosengarten

page 22

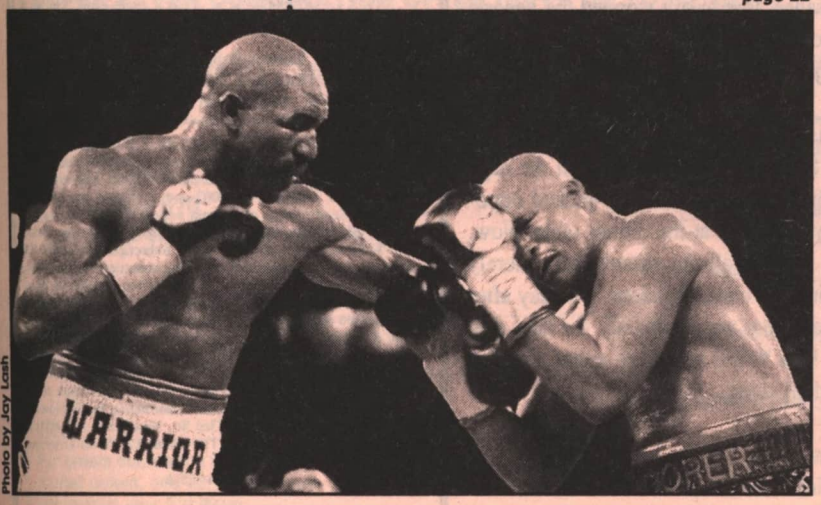


Photo by Joy Lash

page 19

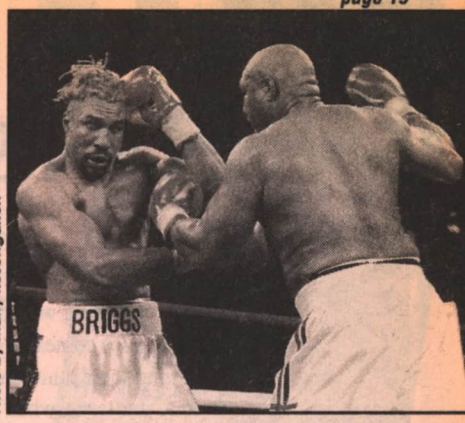


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Ringside Reports And Analyses

62 **FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS**

Ratings

14 **THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS AND RECORDS**

82 **WBA, WBC, & IBF RATINGS**

DEPARTMENTS

4 RINGSIDE *by Nigel Collins*

6 COME OUT WRITING

8 ROUND ONE

16 RYAN OUT LOUD, *by Jeff Ryan*

48 CAMERA CLICKS

58 NEW FACES: Junior Bantamweight Pedro Pena, *by Robert Cassidy*

60 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

84 THE RING CLASSIC: THE TRAGEDY OF BOXING COMEBACKS, *by Barney Nagler*

90 LOOKING AHEAD

RINGSIDE

Most boxing writers are cock-sure, know-it-all types, especially when it comes to scoring a fight. Normally, I can be counted among their numbers, and have no reservations about hollering loud and long when I feel an injustice has been perpetrated. It will, then, probably come as a bit of a surprise when I tell you that I don't think that the Shannon Briggs-George Foreman decision was as big a robbery as so many other observers felt it was. Unquestionably, the four-point margins for Briggs that judges Calvin Claxton (116-112) and Lawrence Layton (117-113) turned in were travesties, but I thought Steve Weisfeld's 114-114 draw was just about right.

Some fights are easy to score, others are not, and for me, the Briggs-Foreman bout was a toughie. While Big George certainly had his moments, in many rounds those moments were brief. Briggs, for the most part, peppered away at a busy rate, doing enough damage to raise a collection of lumps and bumps on Foreman's face. Even in the 12th-round, which was probably Foreman's best in terms of inflicting damage, Briggs, after having his nose mangled, came back and landed some pretty good shots before the bell. What it boils down to is that I have no argument with anybody who scored the fight closely, regardless of who they had winning.

As is typically the case when there's a controversial decision, rumors of foul play began circulating before the fighters even had a chance to cut off their hand wraps. Was the fight fixed? I can't say with any degree of certainty. The problem is that neither I nor anyone else, as far as I know, has any evidence of wrong-doing, and without proof it's foolish to make serious accusations. But that doesn't mean that I'm going to allow Claxton, Layton, and Larry Hazzard, the New Jersey boxing commissioner who appointed them to work the fight, off the hook without admonishment. All three did an appalling job, starting with Hazzard who decided to give two relative novices such an important assignment.

Hazzard's selection of Clayton has drawn particular attention because he is the same judge who scored the Ray Mercer-Tim Witherspoon fight in favor of Mercer by a tally of 97-91 in what many felt was a very close fight. The fact that Mercer, like Briggs, is managed by Marc Roberts has given conspiracy theorists additional ammunition. And while there is no evidence of malfeasance, that hasn't stopped the general public from thinking that something untoward occurred.

With the state of boxing as it is, that could be just as damaging.

***

I've had it with Butterbean. Unlike many purists, I used to get a kick watching the roly-poly "King Of The Four-Rounders" do his thing. But that was back in the days when the Beanster used to go for broke in the ring, attacking his hand-picked opponents with the same sort of enthusiasm he always displays at the dinner table. Now, instead of bowling over his hapless adversaries with an all-out assault, he's merely going through the motions, fighting in spurts, eking out close decisions. The day after his points win over Doug Phillips, The Bean took what was obviously the first step toward a new career by "fighting" Marc Mero in a WWF wrestling event. On due reflection, I guess the WWF is where he belonged all along.

Nigel Collins
Editor-In-Chief

Volume 77, No. 3 March 1998

The RING

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
1888-1972 Founder

STANLEY WESTON
Publisher

STUART M. SAKS
Associate Publisher

MANAGING EDITOR ..... Nigel Collins
ASSOCIATE EDITORS ..... Eric Raskin
Joseph Santoliquito
PHOTO EDITOR ..... Bill Apter
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Wendy Vetter
ART DIRECTOR ..... Joseph Kalman
ART ASSOCIATES ..... Alex Krasnopolsky
Walt Schmidt
Lisa Witter
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR ..... Ron Frankhouser
PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT ..... Cliff Campo
Kelly Flum
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR ..... Frank Vitucci
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
Frank Krewda

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING
David Gerhardt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

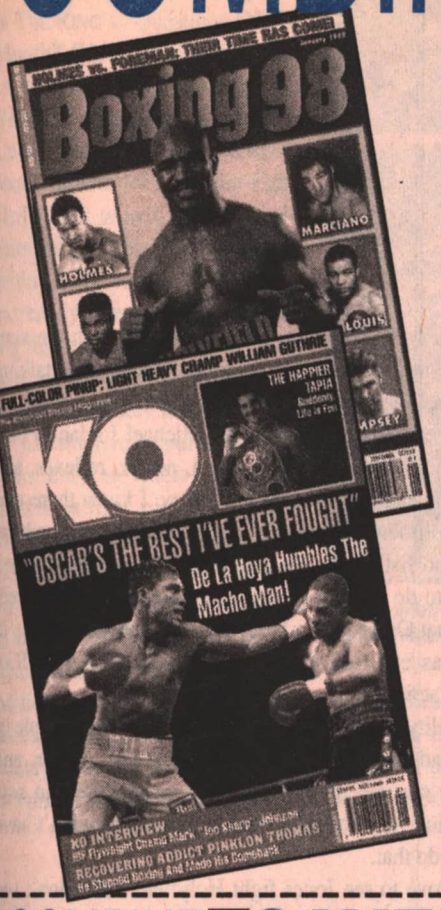
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Sharon Liggio
(215) 643-6385

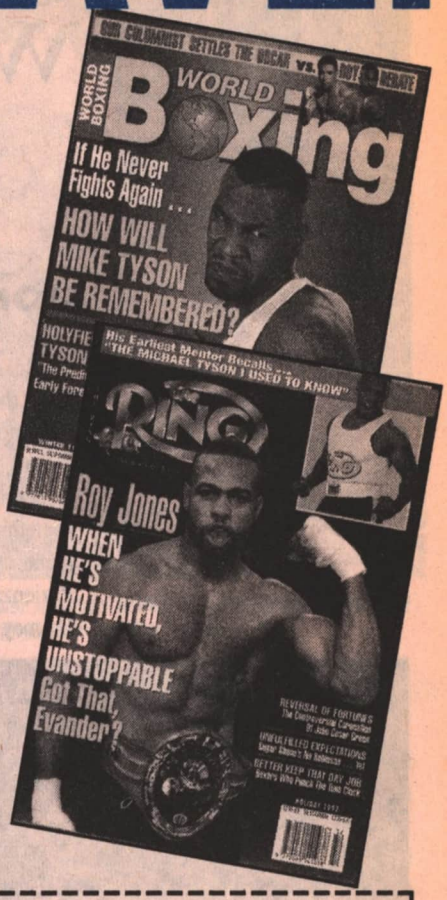
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 77, No. 3, is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: KO MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43302. Single copy price $3.50 ($4.50 in Canada, £2.65 in U.K.). Subscription price $32.45 in the U.S., $42.85 Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

COMBINE and SAVE!



By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading boxing magazines delivered to your door and save up to 33% off the regular newsstand price!



COMBINE and SAVE!

Magazines	# of Issues	US Price	Canada/ Foreign	# of Issues	US. Price	Canada/ Foreign
	ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION			**TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION**		
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 27%!)*						
☐ New ☐ Renewal THE RING	13	☐ $63.25	☐ $83.99	26	☐ $118.40	☐ $160.00
KO	13			26		
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 33%!)*						
THE RING	13			26		
☐ New ☐ Renewal KO	13	☐ $86.65	☐ $115.45	26	☐ $150.80	☐ $208.40
BOXING 98	6			12		
WORLD BOXING	4			8		

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**
Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. For airmail orders, add $2.50 per issue. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

Indicate Method Of Payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature _____

4616/11-97/2c

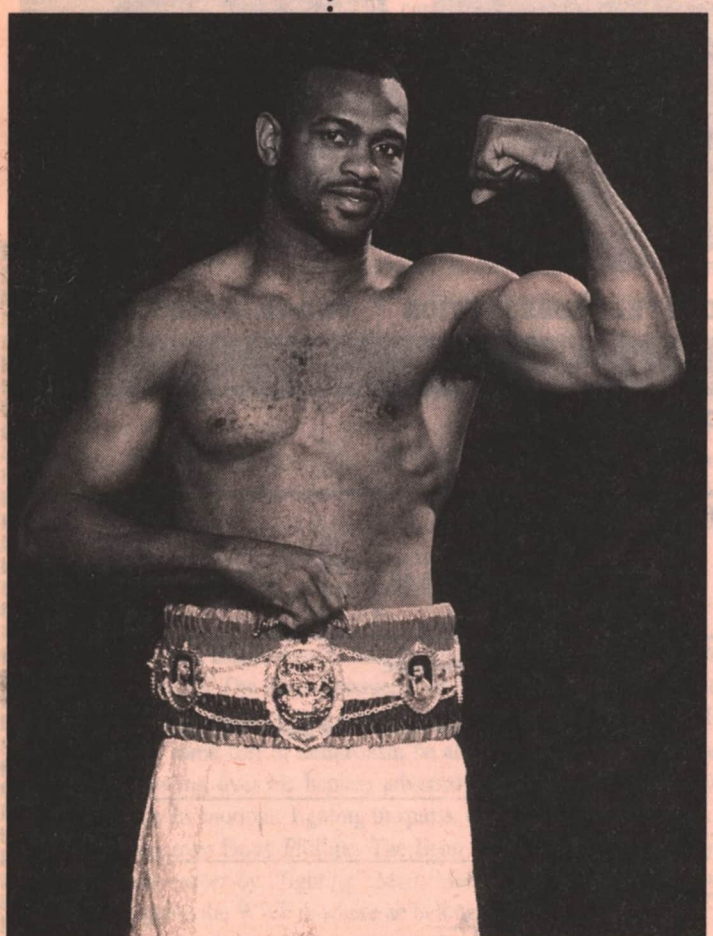
COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

JONES' GENES

I don't know as much about boxing as I do about bodybuilding, but I know that both are very physical sports in which genetically gifted athletes enjoy an edge over their competition. I'm talking about the guys who seem to have been born to do what they do—the ones who make it look easy.

Among the most genetically gifted athletes in their respective sports are Michael Jordan in basketball, Flex Wheeler in bodybuilding, and, in boxing, Roy Jones. His speed, power, reflexes, and reaction time are incredible. The first time I saw him fight, against James Toney, I knew there was something special about him. In that fight, he demolished a previously unbeaten kayo artist whose name used to be at the top of the pound-for-pound list. He made a psyched-up and determined Pazienza look like an amateur, and he's continued to do so with almost every opponent he's faced. He may not have the quality of opposition to face that Oscar De La Hoya has, but watching Jones in the ring is as exciting as watching a young Ali or Ray Robinson in action.



Roy Jones, shown here flexing one of his huge biceps, is a pure athlete who once played in a basketball game for the Jacksonville Barracudas of the United State Basketball League, then stopped Eric Lucas in the same day in 1996.

Roy's ability to lead with left hooks is another example of his genetic advantages. Because of his speed, power, and reflexes, he can get away with it. George Foreman was amazed, saying Ali, Robinson, and he himself wouldn't have been able to do that.

I would love to see Jones fight Holyfield, but I don't see it ever happening. I believe if he were able to put his mind to it, Jones would be a good heavyweight. He claims he doesn't pump iron, but to get to 200 pounds and keep his power, that's probably the best thing he could do (ask Evander). Some fans say Jones is cocky and arrogant, but it's because he knows he's the best. Kinda reminds me of a young Cassius Clay, and we all know what became of him!

JORDAN SCOTT MIERZWIAK
Toledo, OH

COUNT THIS

The winner in the manly art of fisticuffs is determined when one boxer overpowers or overwhelms his opponent. It is not determined by the totally subjective tabulation of the number of punches thrown or landed. I ask, somewhat facetiously, is there a formula that dictates that three sharp left hooks equal one power punch? The only person who can truly rate a power punch is the person on the receiving end. I can see it now:

"I'll count the jabs, you count the hooks. But if my boxer is facing a loss, I'll trade you an uppercut for a right cross." Give us fight fans a break and let us watch boxing without the "state of the art" Punchstat.

S. NEAL CROZIER
Tempe, AZ

HEAVY DOUBTS

Sean O'Grady is a likable guy, but his prediction of Roy Jones beating Evander Holyfield in THE RING's "Questions Of The Month" (Holiday 1997) is ludicrous. If Jorge Castro and Bernard Hopkins (and Eric Lucas, almost) can stand up to Jones' power for an entire fight, Holyfield would march right through Jones and finish the fight within three rounds. Jones is an extremely talented and entertaining fighter, but he has a very long way to go before he draws comparisons with Ray Robinson.

Contrary to popular assumptions, there are a few worthwhile matchups near his own weight. How about a rematch with Hopkins, who he hardly dominated and is as underrated as Jones is overrated? How about Guthrie, Michalczewski, Collins, or Nate Miller? I wouldn't pick against Jones in these fights, but they would be entertaining. It's too bad there are no Jake LaMottas, Randy Turpins, or Charlie Burleys today, but don't let the dearth of current talent inflate your estimation of Jones.

JOE ENNIS
Columbus, OH

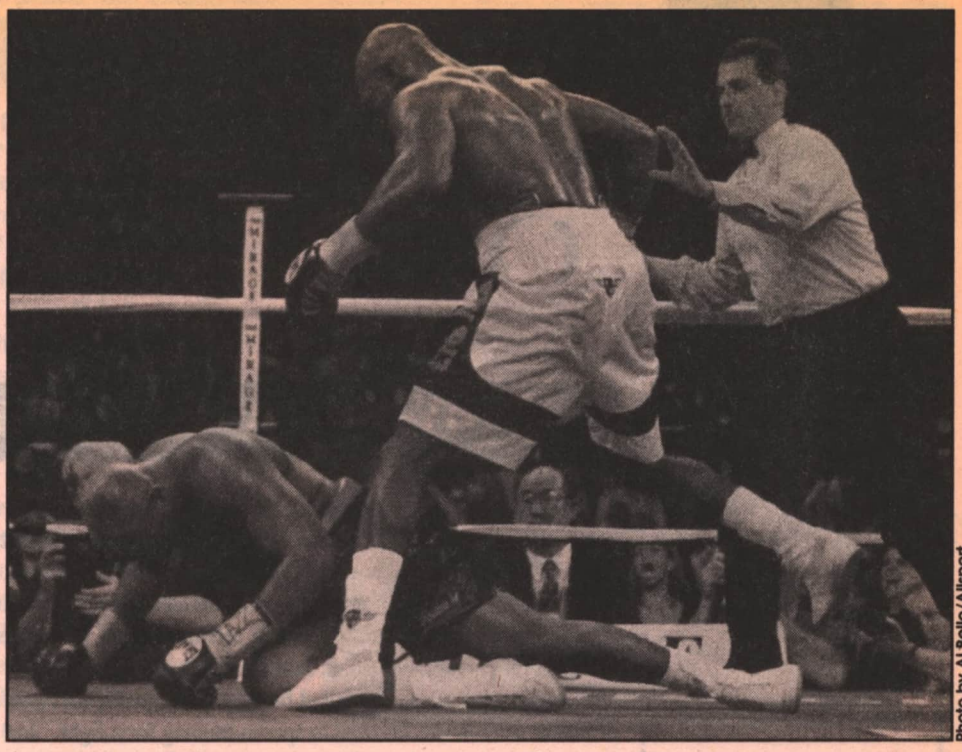


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Reader Brian Curley reminds us of how special a fighter Evander Holyfield is. His five-knockdown stoppage of Michael Moorer was just the latest in a long line of classic performances by "The Real Deal."

CLASSIC EVANDER

I'm in my mid-30s. I used to feel bad I was too young to enjoy and understand the prime of Muhammad Ali's career. But after watching Evander Holyfield's thrilling battle with Michael Moorer, I'm reminded of how fortunate I've been to be a boxing fan during this man's career.

Evander Holyfield has given us more classic and inspirational fights than any fighter I can think of. I know it's heresy to say anything negative about Ali, but how many true classics did he have? Frazier I and III, Foreman for sure, and maybe one of the Norton fights, if you're charitable. The bottom line is we've got something special in Holyfield and we've had it in front of us for a long time. He won't be in the game that much longer, so let's enjoy his classy reign while we can.

BRIAN CURLEY
Brockville, Ontario

ADDS TO THE MARSHALL LIST

Having just read Pete Ehrmann's tribute to Lloyd Marshall in the December 1997 issue of THE RING ("Round One"), I would like to add to the list of champions that Marshall defeated. Future light heavyweight titleholder Joey Maxim was outpointed in Maxim's hometown of Cleveland in 1944 and Freddie Mills was kayoed in five rounds in London in 1947. Barely a year later, Mills beat Gus Lesnevich for the world title.

How many alphabet titles would Marshall have won had he been active today? He would most certainly have been given a crack at one of the crowns—and could have gone on to greater heights from there. In Marshall's case, boxing in the 1990s would have proved more beneficial. Does that say something for today's state of affairs?

PETER STERNBERG
Zimbabwe, Africa

ONE BAD DECISION

I just witnessed one of the worst decisions in recent boxing history. I have been watching boxing for a long time, and cannot recall a decision that is so unjust; not even the Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez fight can compete with this outrage. I watched a 48-year-old George Foreman dominate 25-year-old Shannon Briggs, but for some reason get robbed by the judges. Foreman dominated the fight from the start. He dictated the pace of the fight, was clearly the aggressor, landed his jab at will, pounded Briggs with power shots, and generally beat the daylights out of him.

Sure, Shannon hit George with some good shots, but he didn't do nearly enough to win the fight. If Shannon won that fight, then Mike Tyson has no power, Evander Holyfield has no heart, Naseem Hamed is humble, Oscar De La Hoya needs a face lift, Muhammad Ali has no charisma, and Don King will shave his head. Congratulations, George, you fought a great fight and are a great champion, even if the judges don't realize it.

KEVIN POORMAN
Severna Park, MD ■

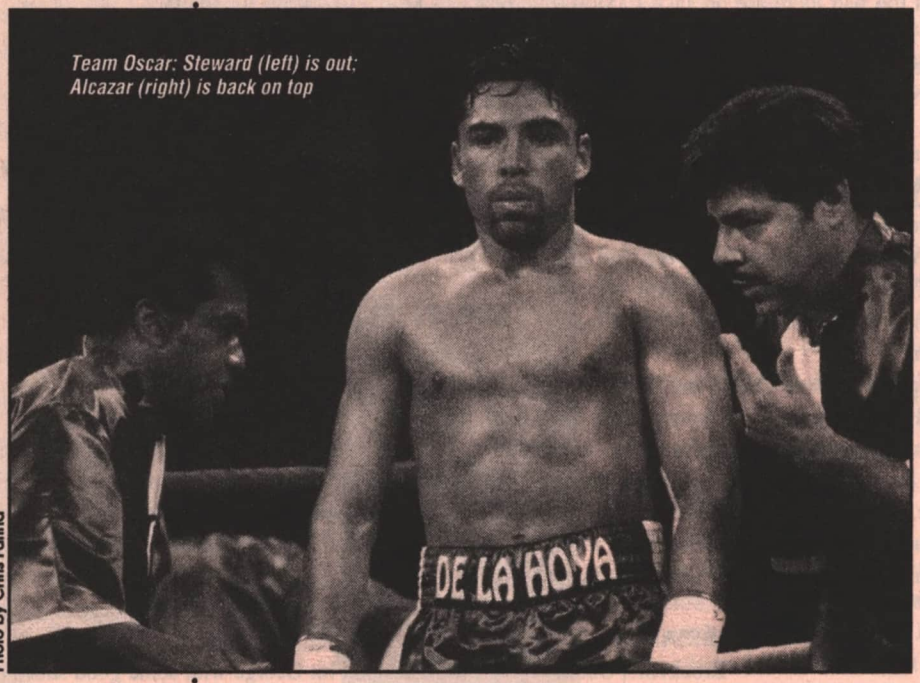
ROUND ONE

WHY DID OSCAR DUMP EMANUEL?

The motives surrounding Oscar De La Hoya's sudden dismissal of trainer Emanuel Steward are unclear, but several theories have surfaced. Steward was fired less than three weeks before De La Hoya's WBC welterweight title defense against Wilfredo Rivera, and Robert Alcazar, who has been with "The Golden Boy" since his early amateur days, was reinstalled as chief trainer. Steward learned of his removal during a phone call from Mike Hernandez, De La Hoya's chief adviser, on behalf of the champion's father, Joel De La Hoya.

Steward contends he was fired because the elder De La Hoya disapproved of the limited number of rounds his son was allowed to spar in training for a fight. "Joel wanted his son to spar 125 rounds [a week]," said Steward. "That's simply crazy for a world class fighter who fights five times a year."

Hernandez implied the break had more to do with Steward's workload. "Emanuel has a rather heavy schedule because he is involved with too many fighters, including Lennox Lewis," Hernandez said. "And with Oscar in the mix, that's a lot of traffic. It's nothing personal, no hard feelings."



Team Oscar: Steward (left) is out; Alcazar (right) is back on top

Photo by Chris Farina

There has also been speculation that De La Hoya's promoter Bob Arum fueled the dismissal after becoming upset with Steward for working as a fight analyst for arch-rival Don King's Evander Holyfield-Michael Moorer pay-per-view show. But Arum vehemently denied that he put pressure on De La Hoya to split with Steward. "Remember, we are promoters," Arum said, "and we don't interfere with fighters on their choice of trainers. I feel the bottom line on the split is strictly Oscar's decision, 100 percent." Arum also denied the rumor that Steward was working secretly to have De La Hoya defect to King.

Steward discounted the notion that his ouster stemmed from a dispute over his percentage of De La Hoya's guaranteed $6-million purse for the Rivera fight. "Money wasn't an issue with De La Hoya, and it never would be," the patriarch of Detroit's Kronk Gym explained. "I resent anybody implying I'm trying to steal De La Hoya away from Arum to join King's camp. I have too much respect for myself, the sport of boxing, and the honorable people in it like Bob Arum."

—Jack Welsh

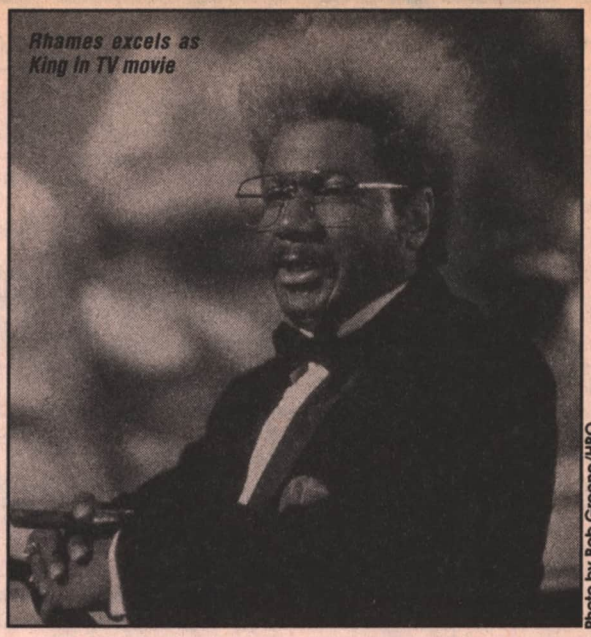
ONLY ON HBO

Would HBO Pictures have produced the film, *Don King: Only In America*, if the business relationship between D.K. and the cable giant hadn't ended acrimoniously a few years ago? Of course not. Thus, one must take this film, based on a book by another King enemy, Jack Newfield, with a grain of salt the size of the larger-than-life promoter himself.

Obey that caveat, and *Don King: Only In America* is an entertaining account of King's life and career. Few details are new to long-time fight observers, but actually watching events unfold—from King beating a man to death on a Cleveland street to his masterful behind-the-scenes machinations to keep the Ali-Foreman fight afloat—keeps them from seeming rehashed.

Ving Rhames is excellent and often hilarious in the lead role, capturing King's mannerisms and spouting bombast with an I'm-full-of-it-and-I-know-it smirk forever glued to his face. And the story moves briskly. Perhaps a bit too briskly. The depiction of both King's four-year prison stint and his 11-year relationship with Mike Tyson take about as long as one of Iron Mike's first-round blowouts.

Another weakness: an inconsistency with detail. How can a movie accurately depict the punch sequence of Ali's kayo of Foreman and the trunk colors of various fighters, then cast skinny, clean-cut Teddy Atlas in the role of fat, unkempt Richie Giachetti? In one scene, King is listening to blow-by-blow of Ali-Frazier I on a prison radio. In fact, the bout wasn't broadcast on radio. An unforgivable sin: We're given the impression Frazier told referee Carlos Padilla that he couldn't continue in "The Thrilla In Manila," when "Smokin' Joe" had actually begged trainer Eddie Futch not to stop the bout.



Rhames excels as King in TV movie

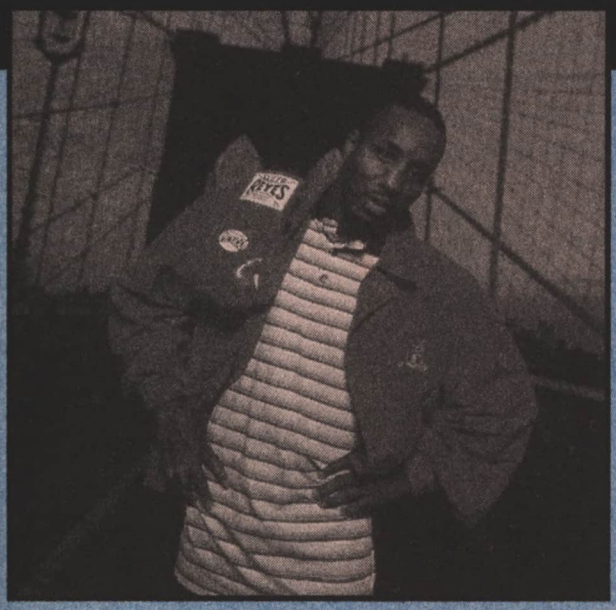
Photo by Bob Greene/HBO

Over the course of two hours, King comes across as what we've always known he is: the greatest promoter since P.T. Barnum, and a despicable cut-throat who can con most of the people most of the time. Knowing what a megalomaniac D.K. is, however, his true reaction to this portrayal is probably no different than his movie character's explanation of the key to a successful promotion:

"Stir the pot, no matter what they think of you, as long as they tune the f___ in."

—Jeff Ryan

A JONES FOR FASHION



Jones models his own line of "activewear"

For his December 19 fight against Kennedy McKinney at Madison Square Garden, Junior Jones was expecting to bring the worlds of boxing and modeling together, sporting a robe and trunks furnished by Original Man Wear (OMW), with whom he recently signed a contract for his own line of "casual activewear."

The top-rated junior featherweight, according to the OMW press release, "epitomizes the OMW concept. Jones' original and active character, in and out of the ring, make him an ideal proponent of OMW." The clothing, to be featured at JC Penney's, includes shirts, caps, jackets, and pants, but there are no plans at the moment to put Jones' satin trunks or custom-designed robe on the market.

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
11-7-97	Michael Grant KO 1 Jorge Luis Gonzalez	ESPN	h	B-	C	B
We all knew Gonzalez was awful, but who knew Grant was this good?						
11-7-97	Will Taylor KO 6 Ernest Mateen	Comcast	lh	C	B-	C
Once useful Mateen continues downward spiral						
11-8-97	**Evander Holyfield KO 8 Michael Moorer**	**PPV**	**WBA/IBF h**	**A+**	**A**	**A**
The Real Deal prevails in slugfest; Moorer hangs tough until the end						
11-8-87	**Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Nate Miller**	**PPV**	**WBA c**	**B+**	**A-**	**C+**
Now that the fight's over, will someone please wake up Miller?						
11-8-97	**Imamu Mayfield W 12 Uriah Grant**	**PPV**	**IBF c**	**B-**	**C**	**C-**
Mayfield moves and punches just enough to outbox The Bossman						
11-8-97	**Wilfredo Vazquez W 12 Genaro Rios**	**PPV**	**WBA f**	**A-**	**B-**	**A-**
Ageless Vazquez suddenly looks his age; lucky to get nod over spirited Rios						
11-9-97	Floyd Weaver D 12 Fidel Arendano	ESPN2	jm	C+	A	A+
A brawl from start to finish; a keeper						
11-10-97	Oscar Maldonado KO 3 Baudilio Hernandez	Fox Sports	f	C	B+	B
Dominant performance by Maldonado, who may be a star in the making						
11-11-97	John-John Molina W 10 Moses James	USA	jw	C+	B	C+
Neophyte James breaks every rule while losing every round						
11-14-97	Rafael Ruelas KO 7 Rodney Wilson	Fox Sports	w	B	B-	B-
Ruelas stays busy hoping for winner of Chavez-Gonzalez						
11-15-97	Cesar Bazan Tech. Draw 1 Joel Perez	Telemundo	l	A-	A-	C
First-round headbutt brings disappointing end to excellent matchup						
11-18-97	**Bernard Hopkins W 12 Andrew Council**	**USA**	**IBF m**	**A-**	**B+**	**A-**
The Executioner dominates with bodypunches and activity						
11-20-97	**Genaro Hernandez W 12 Carlos Hernandez**	**PPV**	**WBC sf**	**A-**	**B**	**A**
Carlos in the running early, but Genaro's skills too much over the long haul						
11-20-97	Lucia Rijker KO 3 Jeanette Witte	PPV	jw	C	B	B-
Witte can't handle Rijker's power; can Christy?						
11-20-97	Floyd Mayweather KO 3 Angelo Nunez	PPV	jl	B-	C+	B+
Nunez comes to fight, but just can't keep up						
11-20-97	Lamon Brewster W 8 John Kiser	PPV	h	C	B	B-
Good learning experience for up-and-coming Brewster						
11-21-97	Cesar Soto KO 6 Sean Fletcher	ESPN2	f	B+	B-	B+
Soto brutal with bodyshots and hooks; Fletcher never in this one						
11-22-97	Shannon Briggs W 12 George Foreman	HBO	h	B+	A-	B-
One of the worst decisions of the year; Briggs has long road ahead						
11-25-97	**Shane Mosley KO 11 Manuel Gomez**	**USA**	**IBF l**	**A-**	**B**	**A-**
Tough-as-nails Gomez makes it fun until Mosley finally finds the sweet spot						
12-2-97	**Charles Brewer W 12 Joey DeGrandis**	**USA**	**IBF sm**	**B**	**B-**	**C+**
Brewer has too many weapons for the tough but limited DeGrandis						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

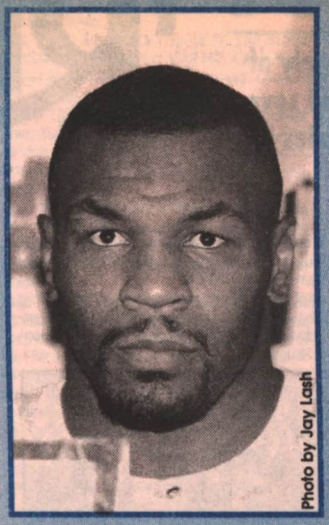


Photo by Jay Lash

Tyson: Banged up in bike wreck

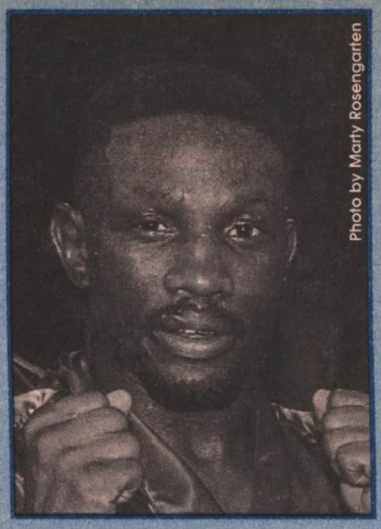


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Whitaker: Denies drug charge

Though he is currently banned from boxing, **Mike Tyson** continues to work his way into the headlines. On October 29, Tyson skidded off a Connecticut highway on his motorcycle and was admitted to Hartford Hospital, where it was determined he suffered a punctured lung and a broken rib. Tyson allowed his 1100 cc Honda to get too close to a friend's motorcycle, and the former heavyweight champ lost control of the bike when he hit a patch of sand as he tried to avoid colliding with his friend. **Dr. Ira Trocki**, Tyson's personal plastic surgeon and physician, said the injuries should not harm the fighter's boxing skills ... **Pernell Whitaker** was suspended for 30 days after testing positive for cocaine after his October 17 fight with **Andrei Pestriaev** in Connecticut. Whitaker disputed the findings, and his representatives questioned the fact that it took nearly two weeks for them to receive the results of a drug test, which should normally take just a couple of days to process. Whitaker argued, "I know I offended some people by calling them disorganized, and this is their payback. It's a crime, a serious thing they're doing" ... Former welterweight and junior welterweight champion **Meldrick Taylor** was arraigned in Philadelphia on October 29 on insurance fraud charges, then released from custody to await a preliminary hearing. On October 24, 1994, Taylor claimed the Mercedes he was leasing had been stolen, but the car was discovered in North Philadelphia on October 27, 1995, with a receipt in the trunk for a cellular telephone that Taylor had purchased two weeks earlier. Taylor simply told THE RING, "They ain't got nuthin' on me" ... Tragedy struck in Tokyo on October 13 when junior bantamweight **Akira Taiga** lost to **Yoshiaki Matsukara** and had to be removed from the ring by stretcher after being kayoed in the seventh. Taiga was taken to a local hospital, where he died of a brain hemorrhage six days later.

THE PUNCHLINES

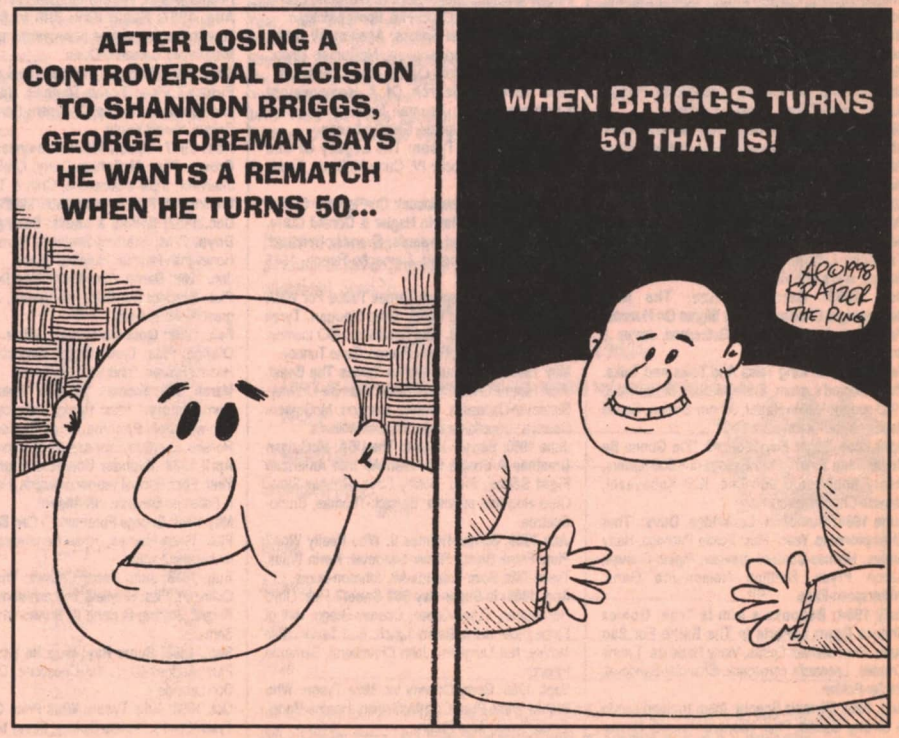
"If somebody thinks there's a $25-million purse for someone, there isn't."

—HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella, commenting on the problems of making an Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis match.

"I'd say you've got an advantage of at least two rounds if you're fighting in your hometown. So when you fight out of town, knock 'em out."

—Boxing judge Harold Lederman on the perils of fighting on the road.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



Back Issues of The RING

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

April 1980: Pulling No Punches: Exclusive Interview With Vito Antuofermo. Plus: Danny Lopez, cruiserweights, Olympic boycott, Ken Norton, James Scott, Salvador Sanchez, Spinks-Evangelista, Arguello-Castillo.

Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

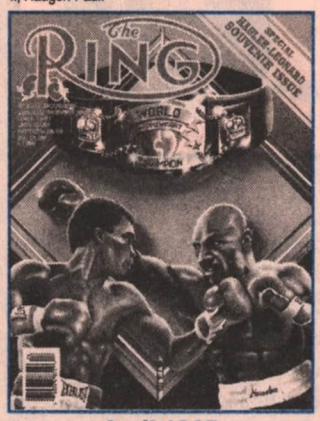
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING'S 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Aug. 1997: Keep Your Word, Oscar ... Give "Sweet Pea" A Rematch! Plus: Shane Mosley, Tony Zale, Holyfield-Tyson II preview, Montell Griffin, Red Cochrane.

Sept. 1997: (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

☐ Apr/80
☐ Aug/81
☐ Oct/81
☐ Feb/82
☐ Aug/82
☐ Jan/83
☐ Feb/83
☐ Apr/83
☐ May/83
☐ Jun/83
☐ Aug/83
☐ Sep/83
☐ Oct/83
☐ Nov/83
All 9 $34
☐ Feb/84
☐ Apr/84
☐ Jun/84
☐ Jul/84
☐ Aug/84
☐ Oct/84
☐ Dec/84
All 7 $28
☐ Jan/85
☐ Feb/85
☐ Apr/85
☐ May/85
☐ Jun/85
☐ Jul/85
☐ Aug/85
☐ Sep/85
☐ Oct/85
☐ Nov/85
☐ Dec/85
All 11 $40
☐ Jan/86
☐ Feb/86
☐ Mar/86
☐ Apr/86
☐ May/86
☐ Jun/86
☐ Jul/86
☐ Aug/86
☐ Sep/86
☐ Dec/86
All 10 $37
☐ Apr/87
☐ May/87
☐ Jun/87
☐ Jul/87
☐ Aug/87
☐ Sep/87
☐ Nov/87
☐ Dec/87
All 8 $31
☐ Jan/88
☐ Feb/88
☐ Mar/88
☐ Apr/88
☐ May/88
☐ Aug/88
☐ Sep/88
☐ Oct/88
☐ Nov/88
All 9 $34
☐ Jan/89
☐ Feb/89
☐ Mar/89
☐ May/89
All 4 $18
☐ Jan/90
☐ Feb/90
☐ Mar/90
☐ Apr/90
☐ May/90
☐ Jun/90
☐ Jul/90
☐ Aug/90
☐ Sep/90
☐ Oct/90
☐ Nov/90
☐ Dec/90
All 12 $43
☐ Jan/91
☐ Feb/91
☐ Mar/91
☐ Apr/91
☐ May/91
☐ Jun/91
☐ Jul/91
☐ Aug/91
☐ Oct/91
☐ Nov/91
☐ Dec/91
All 11 $40
☐ Jan/92
☐ May/92
☐ Jun/92
☐ Jul/92
☐ Aug/92
☐ Sep/92
☐ Oct/92
☐ Nov/92
All 8 $31
☐ Feb/93
☐ Mar/93
☐ Apr/93
☐ Aug/93
☐ Oct/93
All 5 $21
☐ Mar/94
☐ Apr/94
☐ May/94
☐ Jun/94
☐ Jul/94
☐ Aug/94
☐ Oct/94
☐ Nov/94
☐ Dec/94
All 9 $34
☐ Jan/95
☐ Feb/95
☐ Mar/95
☐ May/95
☐ Jun/95
☐ Jul/95
☐ Aug/95
☐ Sep/95
☐ Oct/95
☐ Nov/95
☐ Dec/95
☐ Wint/95
All 12 $43
☐ Jan/96
☐ Feb/96
☐ Apr/96
☐ May/96
☐ Jun/96
☐ Jul/96
☐ Aug/96
☐ Sep/96
☐ Oct/96
☐ Nov/96
☐ Dec/96
☐ Hol/96
All 12 $43
☐ Jan/97
☐ Feb/97
☐ Mar/97
☐ Apr/97
☐ May/97
☐ Jun/97
☐ Jul/97
☐ Aug/97
☐ Sep/97
All 9 $34

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ MO/YR

ONLY $5 EACH

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4548/06-97

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended December 9, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

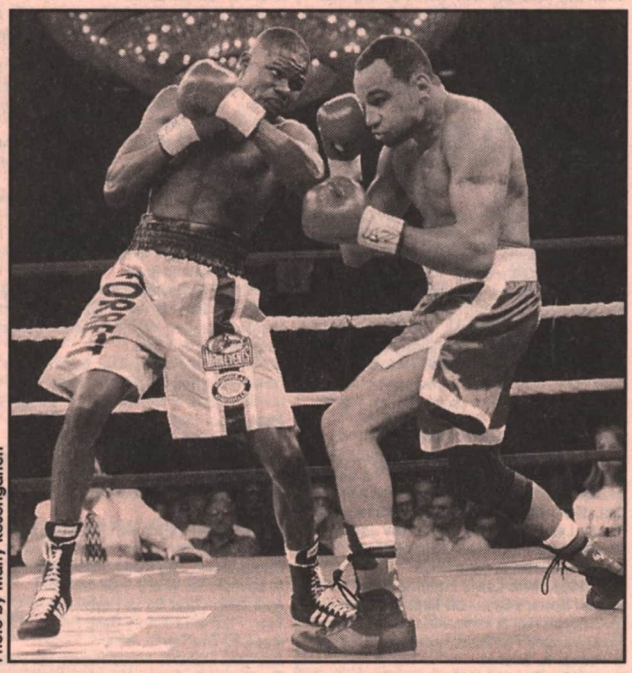


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Forrest beat Oliveira and moved up to eighth in the welters

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *35-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *39-2*
4. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
5. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *46-5*
6. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-5*
7. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *31-1*
8. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *17-0*
9. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *28-1*
10. **DAVID IZON** Nigeria *20-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *22-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *17-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *30-5*
5. **CARL THOMPSON** England *22-4*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *35-3-1*
7. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *21-0*
8. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *16-1*
9. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-4-2*
10. **TERRY DUNSTAN** England *16-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *35-1*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *36-0*
3. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-2*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *27-1*
5. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *39-4-1*
8. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *39-4*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *52-3*
10. **DRAKE THADZI** Brockton, MA *29-8-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *31-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **ROBIN REID** England *25-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *30-5 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *23-0*
5. **HEROL GRAHAM** England *48-5*
6. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *33-6*
7. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*
8. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *33-5*
9. **CHRIS EUBANK** England *45-3-2*
10. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *25-2-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *33-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *30-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *22-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *24-1-1*
5. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *26-0-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *29-1-1*
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *30-0*
8. **BRIAN BARBOSA** Providence, RI *23-3*
9. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *24-2-1*
10. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *29-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *69-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY *15-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *47-7*
5. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *59-3*
6. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
7. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *28-1*
8. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *33-2*
9. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-4-1*
10. **EMMETT LINTON**
    Tacoma, WA *23-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *41-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *39-3-2*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *43-2-1*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *25-4-1*
8. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *23-0*
9. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *27-3-1*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-2*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *37-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *31-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *19-1-1*
6. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *50-3*
7. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA *37-6-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *45-4*
9. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *26-2*
10. **ALFONSO SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *17-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *25-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *32-1*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *27-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
   Uzbekistan *23-0*
10. **CESAR BAZAN**
    Mexico *30-2-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *29-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *29-0*
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *22-2-1*
6. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *36-0-2*
7. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *59-5-1*
8. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *22-1*
9. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-2*
10. **GABE RUELAS**
    Arleta, CA *44-4*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *28-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *50-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *23-1*
6. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *14-0*
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *21-4*
8. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *46-3-1*
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
10. **EVER BELENO**
    Colombia *37-3*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *44-2*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *34-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
6. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-8-3*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *33-3-1*
8. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
9. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *27-0-1*
10. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *23-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *17-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *37-3 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *15-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *16-1*
5. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *37-1*
6. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-1*
7. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *23-0*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *13-1*
9. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *61-6-3*
10. **ADAN VARGAS**
    Mexico *25-1-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *41-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *39-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
5. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
6. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
7. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
8. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand *24-3*
9. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua *21-2*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico *31-2-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *33-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *31-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *24-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-1*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *46-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *17-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *35-3*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *11-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *30-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *36-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *47-10-2*
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *50-5-4*
5. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
6. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *22-3*
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *45-4*
8. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
9. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *31-8*
10. **HADAO C.P. GYM**
    Thailand *36-9-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
7. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
8. **NASEEM HAMED**
   Featherweight
9. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
10. **MARK JOHNSON**
    Flyweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

SORRY SEND-OFF

Lots of wonderful, if not downright unbelievable, things happened between the time George Foreman waved a tiny American flag in Mexico City in 1968 and waved a big white flag in Atlantic City in 1997.

For starters, Big George rendered logic and conventional wisdom about as meaningless as a right cross to his stone chin. He made real history, not the watered-down kind we usually get in this era of splintered titles and extra playoff games. He completely remade himself, turning an ogre into a teddy bear and a robot into a technician. And despite all the bad fast-food jokes, shameless product pitches, handpicked opponents, and unsightly pounds, he managed to bring to the game a huge measure of class.

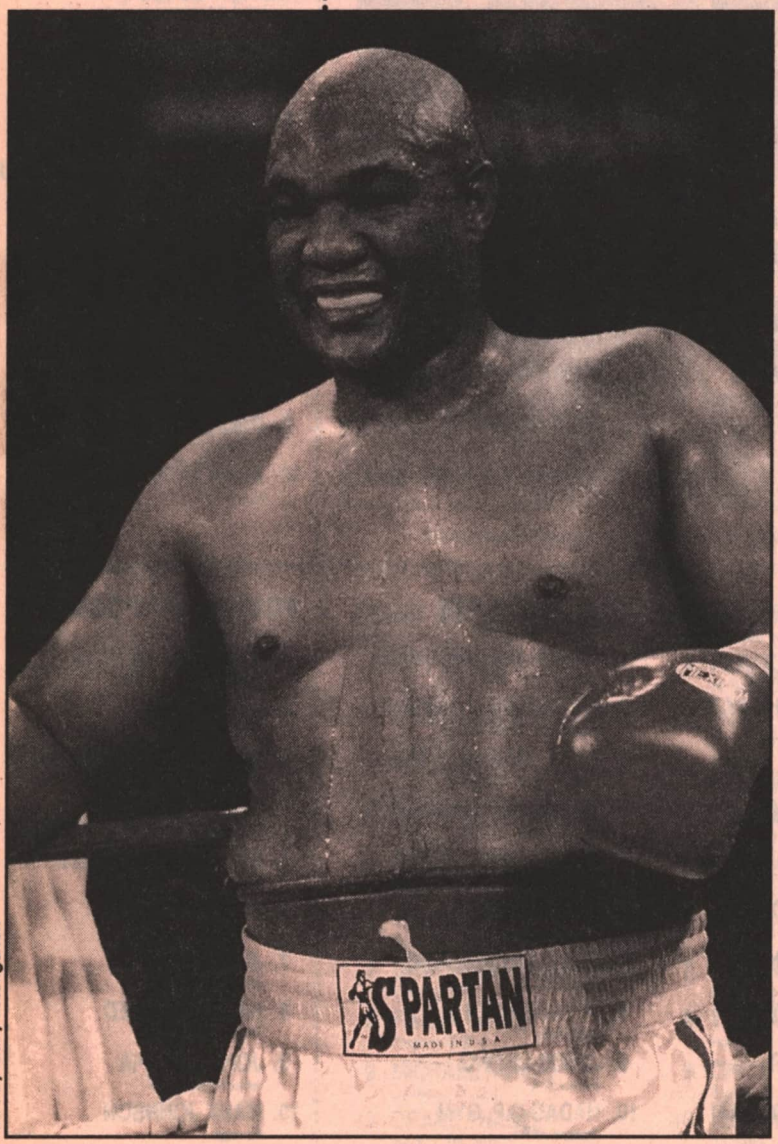


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Big George deserve a better end to his great career

So if the 12 rounds against Shannon Briggs were indeed the last time we'll ever see Foreman wearing a mouthpiece (instead of merely serving as one for Corporate America), then a bad taste will surely linger in my own mouth. And it's probably going to take a case full of Listerine to rinse it away.

There isn't anybody who watched the second act of Foreman's career who didn't anticipate the night the linear king would be dethroned and sent lumbering back to his Texas ranch. Some pundits thought it would happen against Lou Savarese. Others believed it *did* happen vs. Axel Schulz. But by (left) hook or by (a judge scoring like a) crook, Foreman lived to hype another day. By the time of the Briggs bout, however, writers and TV reporters were starting to wonder aloud if Foreman, because of his advanced age and over-reliance on his solid chin, was guaranteeing himself a one-way trip to the neurological no man's land in which Muhammad Ali and Jerry Quarry currently reside.

One can argue that we should be glad Foreman lost the way he did. After all, if we could have been guaranteed that he'd end his career on his feet, unbloodied, and alert enough to be able to shill for his electric grill during a postfight interview, we'd have taken it. And how could we get choked up over Big George suffering an unexpected defeat? That's just what the semi-active Foreman deserved for carrying on his Bum of the Year Club. As well as for—*zzzz*—going the distance every damn time, the result of one of the greatest kayo punchers in boxing history no longer being able to put together a combination.

So why am I so annoyed? Because even if you don't like the way the guy at the corner deli does business, you still can't approve of him getting robbed. And Foreman was fleeced. Briggs' majority decision over The Reverend ranks right up there with Julio Cesar Chavez' draw against Pernell Whitaker and James Toney's decision over Dave Tiberi on my list of Worst Heists of the '90s. My card had Foreman ahead by five points. Big George owned the superior jab, he landed the harder punches, and he was in control for most of the bout. Briggs? He had the better hair.

So now Briggs is the linear heavyweight champion, a descendant of Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, and Sonny Liston. Briggs wins the World Series on an unearned run. Captures the Super Bowl on a referee's blown call. Skates around with the Stanley Cup even though replays later reveal that on his game-winning score, the puck never crossed the goal line.

The verdict becomes particularly troubling if Foreman does indeed stay away from the ring. I won't be a hypocrite and suggest he continue fighting. There's no question that the perfect ending to Career II would have been a retirement announcement in center ring after he upset Michael Moorer to regain the heavyweight crown a mind-boggling 20 years after losing it. Ever since that amazing night in Las Vegas in '94, my voice has been among those calling for Foreman to Express Mail his trunks, gloves, and robe to Canastota and kick his feet up on the ottoman once and for all.

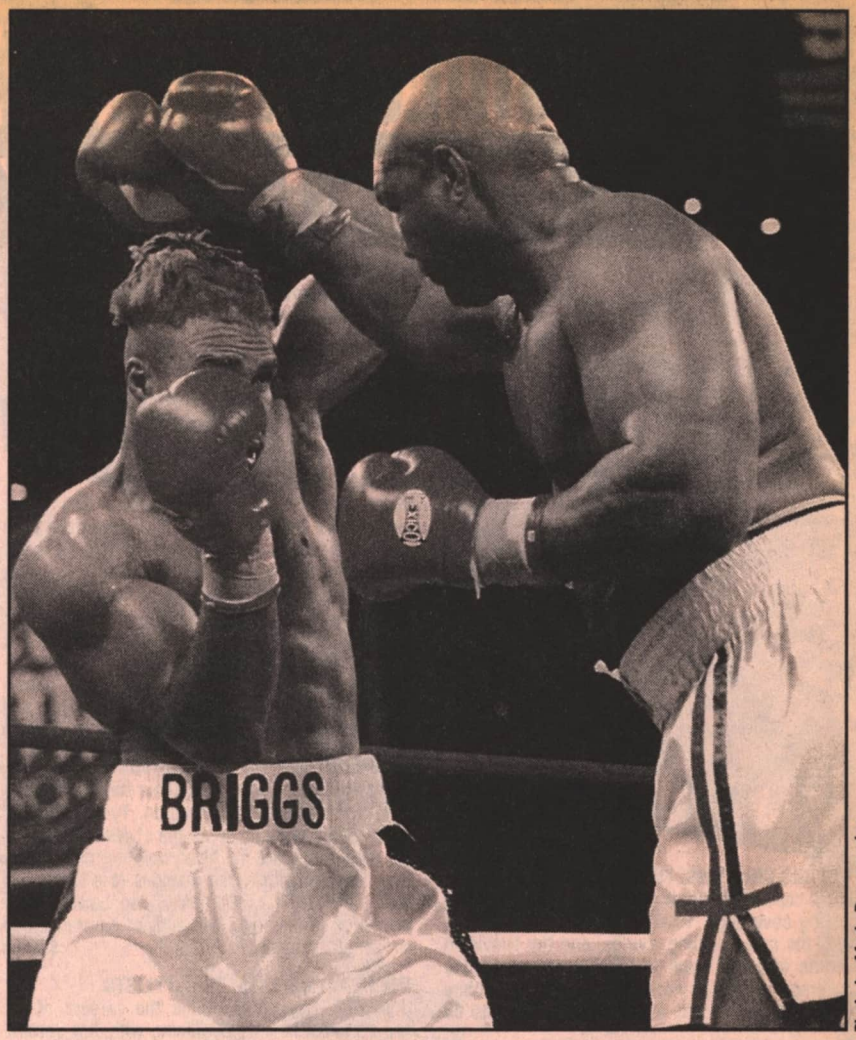


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Briggs had better hair, but Ryan thinks Foreman won the fight

And yet ...

It's hard for me to see a guy who has meant so much to, and done so much for, his sport be rabbit-punched on his way out the door. Is *this* a fitting finale for a man who put a steak on boxing's black eyes for much of the past decade? Should the events of November 22, 1997, in Atlantic City be the last line on a resume that includes two heavyweight title reigns, 81 bouts, 18 years of action, and the names of Ali, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Ron Lyle, and Evander Holyfield? Shouldn't Foreman go out with either his hand raised or his loss truly deserved?

Admittedly, it's a pet peeve of mine that I've always liked clean endings in sports. Not everyone has to depart the way Jim Brown and Mario Lemieux did, on top and still dominant. But I hate to see sloppy finishes. It was great that Don Mattingly was a New York Yankee his entire career. It wasn't so great that Joe Namath ended up as a backup with the Los Angeles Rams. Marciano retired undefeated, and that's something to talk about forever. Ali finished up losing to Trevor Berbick in a third-rate stadium in the Bahamas, and with a cow bell clanging at the end of every round. That's something to forget.

But as unfortunate as Ali's finish was, at least it was definitive. He didn't get the decision, but he didn't deserve it, either. Ken Norton went out being pounded senseless against the turnbuckle by Gerry Cooney. A sorry final scene, but one with symmetry to it. Foreman goes away without any form of—sorry, but I have to use that thoroughly '90s word we're all tired of—*closure*.

There are two solutions to this. One is to encourage a comeback, which, as I said earlier, is not a option. The other is to remind ourselves that if Foreman was going to stubbornly continue to keep on keepin' on not just past his original prime, but also beyond the prime of Career II, then he assumed the risk of an unfulfilling finale. This is, after all, boxing. A place where few endings are happy ones.

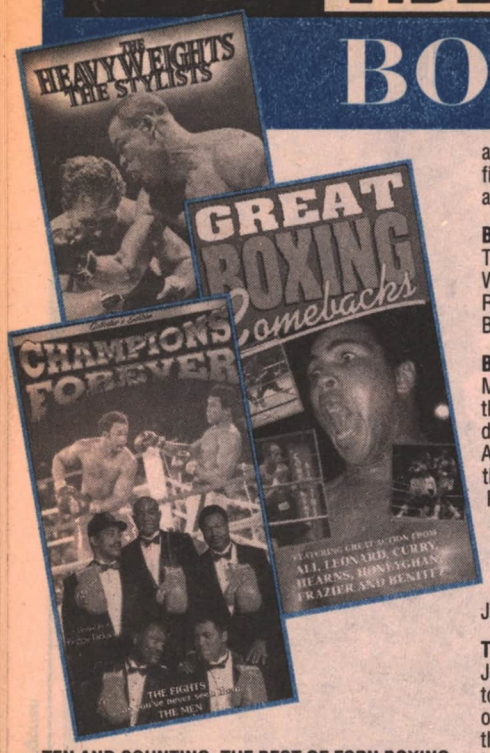
We can also take solace in this fact: We too often discover when we make a big deal out of the sorry endings of athletic careers, that the sour finishes bother the media and fans a lot more than they do the athletes themselves. If anyone seems capable of not being bitter about this 15 years from now, it's Big George.

In 2013, he won't be a cranky ex-champ bitching to any journalist who'll listen about the night he was shafted in Atlantic City. No, he'll be a jolly sexagenarian doing commercials for freeze-dried Doritos and Carnival Cruise Lines' vacations to Mars. ■

RING VIDEO STORE

Turn your television into a ringside seat with these action-packed

BOXING VIDEOS!



TEN AND COUNTING: THE BEST OF ESPN BOXING
ESPN captures the best moments from 10 years of boxing coverage. You'll see outstanding match-ups, the most exciting rounds, and the television debuts of Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas. Plus coverage of George Foreman's comeback, Bobby Czyz, and much more. 45 minutes. **$19.95**

BOXING BLOOPERS AND K.O.s
Host Al Bernstein takes you on a tour through the bizarre and hard-hitting world of boxing. This video includes high-powered knockout action and the wackiest bloopers ever. Also includes interviews with Hagler, Holmes, Frazier, and Holyfield. 30 minutes. **$19.95**

THE LEONARD-HEARNS SAGA
You'll have a ringside seat for two of the best fights in the history of the sport as Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns go to war. Both fights (September 16, 1981 and June 12, 1989) are shown in their entirety. 127 minutes. **$19.95**

BEST OF THE '80s—Volume 2
This exciting video includes ring action of Tim Witherspoon, George Foreman, Aaron Pryor, Roberto Duran, Leslie Stewart, Larry Holmes, and Bobby Czyz. 51 minutes. **$19.95**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. 60 minutes. **$19.95**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. 51 minutes. **$19.95**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever seen. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. 57 minutes. **$19.95**

30 MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. Among the fantastic one-punch knockouts: Ali-Liston (2), Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson (2), Louis-Paychek. 33 minutes. **$19.95**

THE STORY OF BOXING
This provocative video traces the origins and evolution of boxing over 600 years from the ancient Mediterranean to bare-knuckle boxing in 17th- and 18th-century England, and finally 20th-century boxing in the U.S. Includes probing interviews with Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Jake LaMotta, Ingemar Johansson. 60 minutes. **$14.95**

BOXING'S GREATEST KNOCKOUTS
This documentary puts you ringside for some of boxing's greatest knockouts. Fighters featured include Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Joe Louis, Ray Leonard, Leon Spinks, and Rocky Graziano. 30 minutes. **$14.95**

KILLER BOXING
Boxing's baddest! The crunching punches, the devastating blows, the powerful jabs and awesome bodyblows—they're all here in this high-octane video. You'll see some of the great mismatches and the brutal results. You'll see classic punchers like Dempsey, Louis, Ali, Shavers, Frazier, Foreman, and Marciano. 30 minutes. **$14.95**

CHAMPIONS FOREVER—THE COLLECTOR'S EDITION
Ali, Frazier, Foreman, Holmes, and Norton. For more than 20 years these kings of the ring ruled the heavyweight division. This unprecedented video brings all five greats together for the first time. Packed with exclusive fight footage, this video is an exciting emotional odyssey through the awesome careers of five bigger-than-life heroes who will always be champions forever. 115 minutes. **$19.95**

GREAT BOXING COMEBACKS
This high-impact video features great fight action, interviews, and behind-the-scenes footage with Muhammad Ali, Ray Leonard, Donald Curry, Thomas Hearns, Lloyd Honeyghan, Joe Frazier, and Wilfred Benitez. 60 minutes. **$14.95**

Yes, I would like to order the video(s) I have indicated below. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.

Name_____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

☐ Check or money order

(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

☐ MasterCard # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/ YR

Signature:_____

TITLE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS		$19.95	
TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS		$19.95	
THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS		$19.95	
30 MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS		$19.95	
TEN AND COUNTING		$19.95	
BOXING BLOOPERS AND K.O.s		$19.95	
THE LEONARD-HEARNS SAGA		$19.95	
BEST OF THE '80s—Volume 2		$19.95	
CHAMPIONS FOREVER		$19.95	
THE STORY OF BOXING		$14.95	
BOXING'S GREATEST KNOCKOUTS		$14.95	
KILLER BOXING		$14.95	
GREAT BOXING COMEBACKS		$14.95	
		Sub total	
		Add $3 per video for shipping and handling	
		PA residents add 6% sales tax	
		For orders outside the U.S., add $5 for each video ordered	
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co.
Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. International money orders in U.S. funds only. All videos are VHS and NTSC system compatible only. PAL systems are not compatible. All tapes carry a 100% money back guarantee against defects only. If tape is defective, please return it with a note specifying the defect.

4583/10-97

A Bad Decision Leads To A Good Decision

Photos by Marty Rosengarten

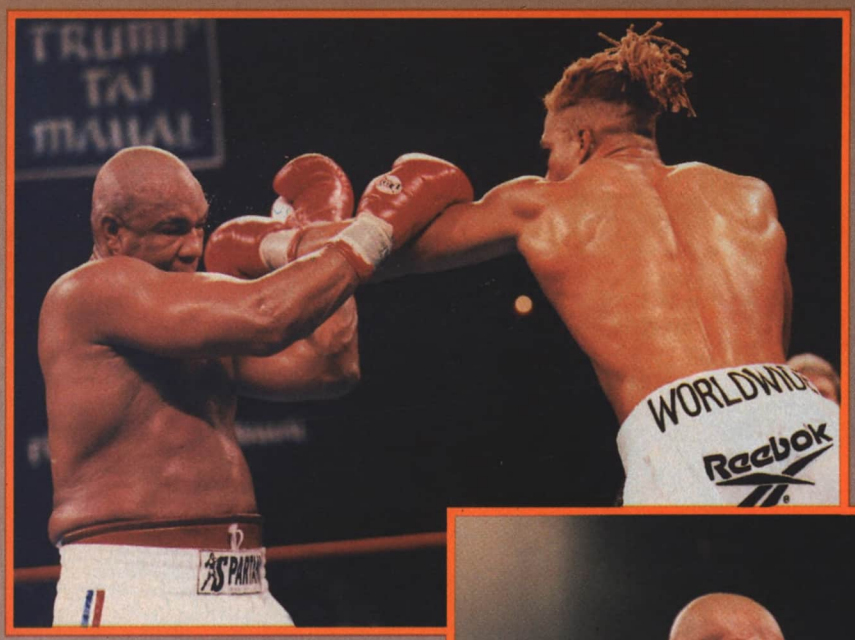
Despite the fact that most observers felt that Foreman had done more than enough to win, it was Shannon Briggs who came away from their 12-rounder in Atlantic City with an unpopular majority decision.

FOREMAN FINALLY CALLS IT QUITS

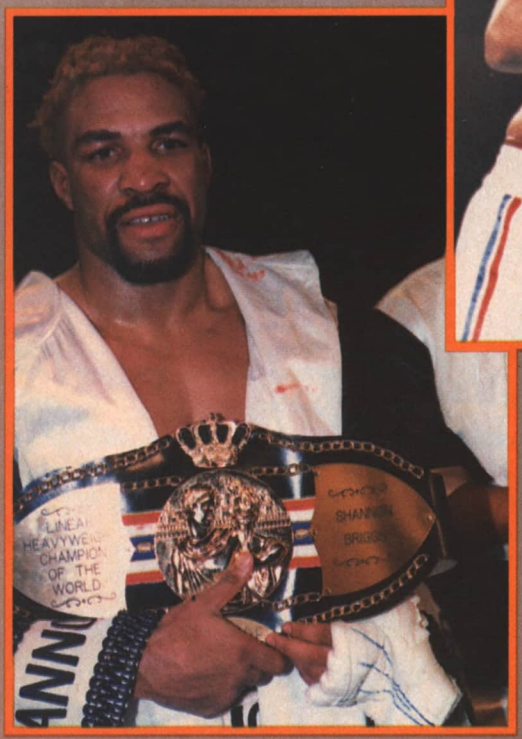
By Ron Borges

George Foreman stood expressionless in his corner as they picked his pocket the way they sometimes do in boxing. And when they were finished, he shrugged his 48-year-old shoulders, and walked away from his sport, probably for the last time.

For the better part of 12 rounds, Foreman had pursued and punched young Shannon Briggs in the face. Although his punches were no longer as sharp as they once were, they were sharp enough to mash Briggs' nose, cut his eyelid, and bloody his mouth. They landed so heavily on one particular occasion that Briggs later said, "He hit me so hard, I thought I saw the Messiah."



Both men scored well with their left jabs throughout the fight. But while Briggs' straight left raised lumps and bumps, Foreman's had head-snapping effect (right).



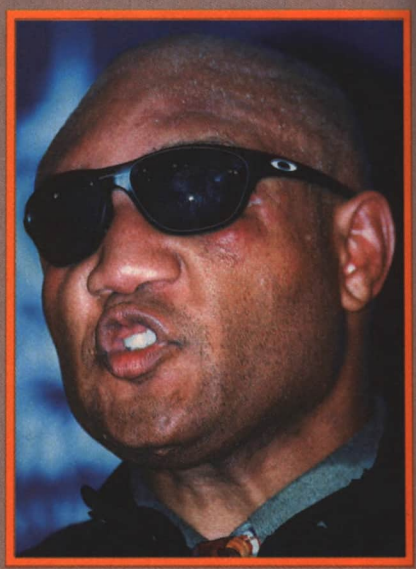
Briggs cradles a belt emblematic of the linear heavyweight title he won by outpointing Foreman. Note that Briggs' name is already engraved on the belt.

They hit Briggs hard enough and often enough to win Foreman at least eight rounds, in the opinion of all but a few observers at ringside. But two of the judges paid by the New Jersey Athletic Commission remarkably—but no longer unbelievably—made Briggs the victor. So Foreman's 10-year comeback came to an end not with a bang out or a whimper, but rather with the quiet acceptance that the jig was up.

"I don't think I'll be boxing again," said Foreman, 76-5 (68), calmly after losing a majority decision that was lustily booed by the announced crowd of 5,200 at the Taj Mahal's Mark Etess Arena in Atlantic City. "I had a wonderful boxing career. I had fun. You can only get so many million. It's not about the money. I'm going back to the church. Boxing was fine, but I was only moonlighting.

"I'm not going to cry like a baby. How can a guy say 'I've been robbed' when he's walking away with a million dollars [actually, $5-million] in his pocket? They said Shannon Briggs won that fight. Good luck to him."

Those last words told the tale of how Foreman really felt. All the rest was a con job, part of the same con he's been running on the boxing public for a decade now. He never was the fat old guy he said he was. He never ate all of the food he talked about devouring. He was never in it just for laughs. When it came to boxing, Foreman was a hard man who came to knock you out, a man who learned in 10 years away from the sport how to sell himself, but who



Even though the fans and most of the media thought Foreman won, it was plain to see by Big George's discolored face that Briggs also landed his share of punches.

The Golden Road To Stardom: Fifth In A Series

DAVID REID WRAPS UP KNOCKOUT ROOKIE YEAR

Making his third start after touch-up eye surgery in August, David Reid punished game Dan Connolly for a fifth-round TKO on the Shannon Briggs-George Foreman undercard. It was "The American Dream's" first appearance on HBO since his pro debut, and the hero of the Atlanta Olympics looked every bit a star-in-the-making while running his record to 6-0 (5).

Connolly, 19-3 (11), was filling in for Nick Rupa, who was injured in training a couple of weeks before the fight.

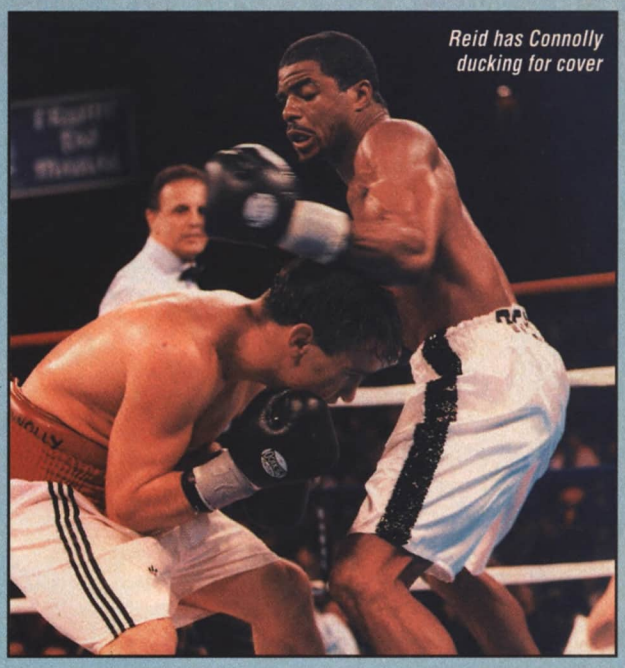
Connolly, 160½, went after Reid, 154, with a body attack in the first round, but soon found himself on the wrong end of the Philadelphian's left jab. The Monroeville, Pennsylvania, resident was still barging forward in the third when he ran into a sweet counter hook that dropped him for a mandatory eight-count.

Reid began landing flush rights virtually at will in the fourth, and when a cut appeared over Connolly's left eye in the fifth, referee Tony Orlando mercifully called a halt at the 1:04 mark.

"When I first caught him with my right hand, I knew he was tough," said Reid. "Normally, guys go down when I hit them like that. With this guy, I had to wear him down, take him apart piece by piece."

Although he absorbed very few blows to the face against Connolly, Reid is considering further surgery to correct a droopy left eyelid, which has already been operated on twice since the Olympics. Although the condition doesn't affect his vision, the 24-year-old Reid is understandably bothered by the way it looks.

"The eyelid is hanging down a little bit," said Al Mitchell, Reid's trainer and adviser. "It's going to drop until he quits boxing, and he can't have it done after every two or three fights. But it's his call."



Reid has Connolly ducking for cover

The lingering eye problem has been the only cloud on what has been a brilliantly engineered rookie year for the charismatic Reid, who displayed his charming brand of chutzpah at the final prefight press conference.

"I'm here to steal the show from you," a grinning Reid told Big George and Briggs. "This is my card. You all are on my undercard."

If the eye hold ups, this time next year he might not be joking.

—Nigel Collins

never forgot how to smack you around, either.

He no more thought that Briggs won that fight, frankly, than Briggs did. Foreman knows how boxing works these days and he has grown to accept it. When he's had leverage, he's used it. When he did not have it, he accepted his fate and moved on. Foreman understood, the way carnival barkers understand, that this was no time to protest. The sports world would defend him without his help. They had seen what had happened to him and were outraged. "The Punching Preacher" did not need to shout. Others would do that.

So Foreman played his last act as perfectly as he had all the ones that had preceded it since he launched his remarkable comeback in 1987, after a decade away from the ring working in ministry. Instinctively, Foreman understood that he would gain nothing by whining about the obvious. He knew he could make himself bigger by staying above it all, and so he did, showing once again that while the perfect timing of his punching may be gone, his perfect timing in life remained.

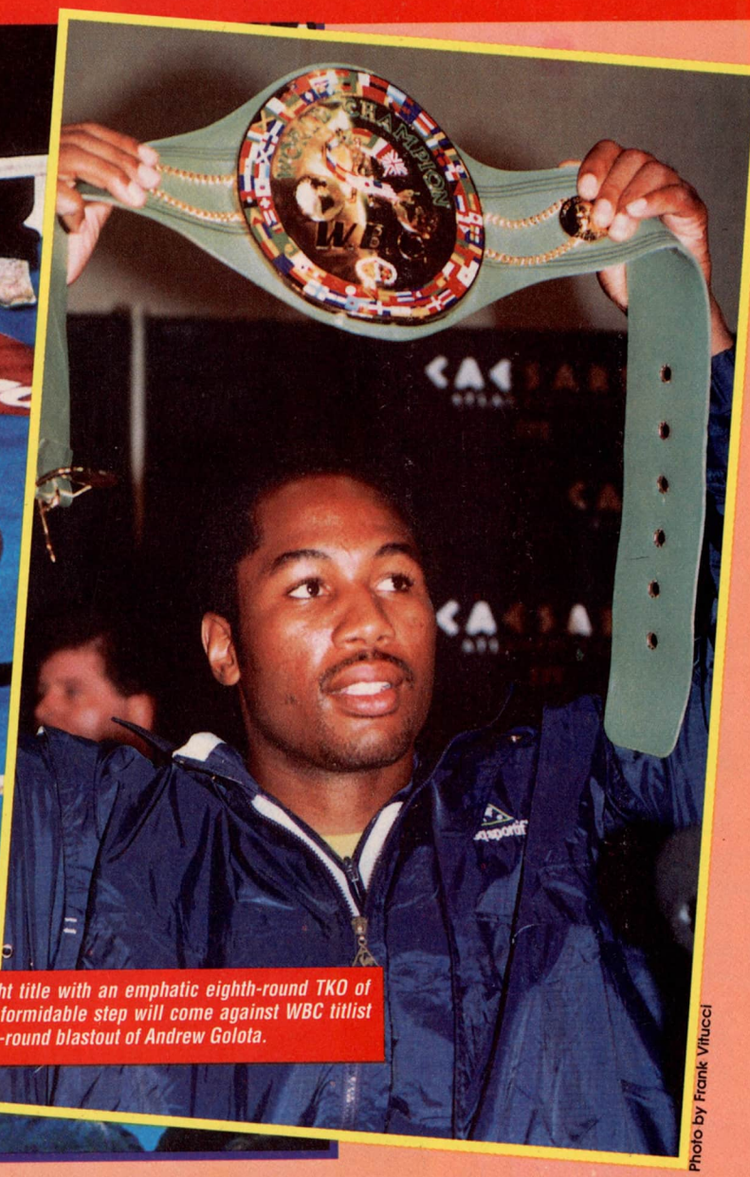
"I'm the last of the bearded ladies," Foreman said when it was over, bringing laughter to a sad crowd. "Step right up! I'm a salesman at heart. I'm not all bitter about anything. That fight is gone. You've got to start thinking about tomorrow. You just got to move on."

Foreman will go back to his church and youth center in Houston, a millionaire 20 times over. Back to his outreach work with the tough kids in the Fifth Ward, content with the knowledge that he had done the impossible. He won when they said he couldn't and he became a legend after the world had forgotten him. For that alone, he should be long remembered. But Foreman did more than become the oldest man in history to win the heavyweight title. He brought joy back to a sport that had lost its capacity to smile. At a time when street thugs and unhappiness had taken over during the bittersweet reign of Mike Tyson, Foreman came back and reminded the world that you can smile and still be ferocious, you can laugh and still leave your opponent laid out, you can respect people

(Continued on page 76)

Into The New Millennium With The Real Deal:
THE RING'S TIMELINE FOR EVANDER HOLYFIELD

Photo by Elsa Hasch/Allsport



Holyfield took step two toward unifying the heavyweight title with an emphatic eighth-round TKO of former conqueror Michael Moorer. The final and most formidable step will come against WBC titlist Lennox Lewis (right), who boosted his status with a one-round blastout of Andrew Golota.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

By Tim Graham

Evander Holyfield is not a complex man. There are two things that drive him: God and boxing. He knows the former will always be there for him, but with every tick of the clock he becomes increasingly cognizant that the glory of competition is waning.

As the new millennium approaches, the IBF/WBA champion is running out of challenges to conquer. After a decorated career as a cruiserweight, he took the undisputed heavyweight title from Buster Douglas. He beat legends such as Larry Holmes and George Foreman. He defeated Mike Tyson twice. He avenged his haunting loss to Michael Moorer, the one after which doctors told him he could never fight again. And he even overcame that serious heart ailment.

At 35 years of age, however, Holyfield must attain any remaining goals as quickly as he can. He has his eyes set on unifying the titles once again, a mission that permanently would place his name among the list of all-time greats. To do that he must fight WBC champion Lennox Lewis. And even though the politics that keep that fight from happening can be overcome, Holyfield must still take care of the belts he already owns by fighting whatever challengers the organizations deem worthy. Juggling that schedule could be the toughest challenge of all. But that's what Holyfield wants, and it will be interesting to see if that's what Holyfield gets.

Because boxing is such a speculative sport and fans sometimes are too impatient to wait around for everything to fall into place, THE RING has pulled out the old chrystal ball and asked it to provide a glimpse at Holyfield's future, into the 21st century. Though the the ball has served this magazine well over the past 76 years, it has been dropped from time to time, so it would be wise to refrain from using this information at the Las Vegas sports book windows.

May 9, 1998: In front of nearly 18,000 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Evander Holyfield enters the arena to gospel music. Moments earlier, he was whipping himself into a religious frenzy in his dressing room, and once again the IBF/WBA champion looks like he's ready to conquer the world.

Awaiting the crusader in the ring is Lennox Lewis, the dreadlocked Adonis

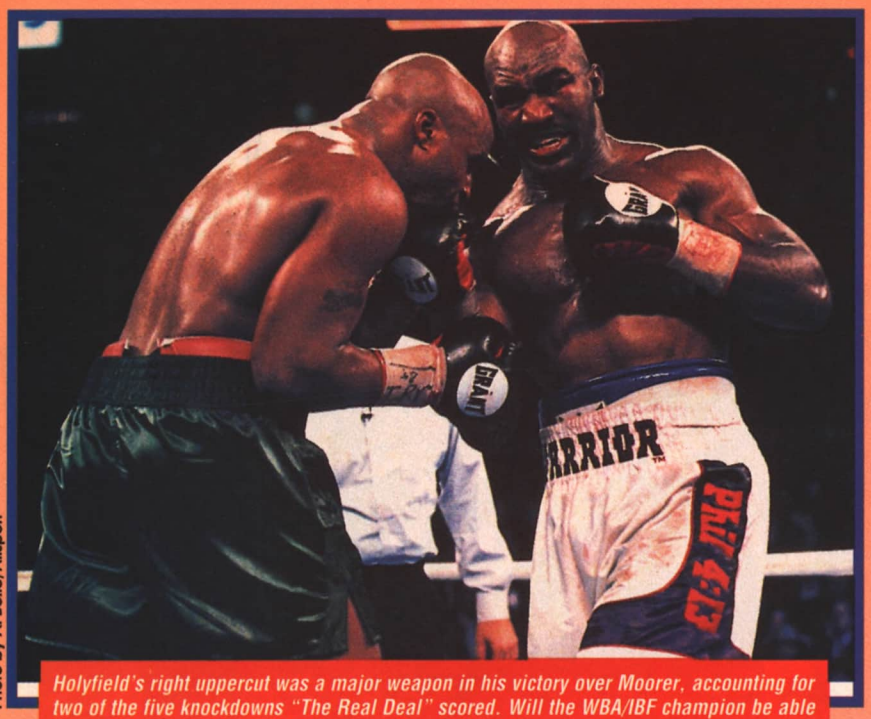


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Holyfield's right uppercut was a major weapon in his victory over Moorer, accounting for two of the five knockdowns "The Real Deal" scored. Will the WBA/IBF champion be able to work his way inside and do the same thing to Lewis?

with the coveted WBC belt. Only one will leave as the first unified heavyweight champion since Riddick Bowe in 1992.

The atmosphere is nuclear as the opening bell sounds. It's the biggest heavyweight fight since Mike Tyson bit off a piece of Holyfield's ear and had his boxing license revoked in the summer of '97.

The pace is disappointing early as both fighters approach with caution. It's not until the fourth round that the biggest blows are thrown. Holyfield catches Lewis with a right hook to the body followed by another right to the head, but Lewis does not waver.

In fact, Lewis scores a flash knockdown in the fifth when a left hook catches an off-balance Holyfield by surprise. Holyfield immediately pops up from the canvas and shows no signs of damage.

Lewis appears overly conservative in the remaining rounds, content to counter Holyfield's offerings. Holyfield lands an impressive overhand right in the ninth and appears to pick up momentum. In the 10th, he sends Lewis rolling along the ropes with a series of bombs.

The drama continues to unfold in the 11th when a left hook from Lewis bloodies Holyfield's nose. As the blood trickles into his mouth, another shot cuts Holyfield over his left eye.

Pandemonium reigns as the fighters answer the bell to start the 12th round. Holyfield clearly senses he must win the final round based on his bloody appearance, and overwhelms Lewis. Holyfield lands several punches early in the round before Lewis decides to ride it out with clinches.

As the final bell rings, doubt looms.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have a unanimous decision," ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. sings. "Judges at ringside Glen Hamada and Dalby Shirley both score the bout 114-113, while Chuck Giampa scores it 115-112 ... all in favor of the winner ... and new undisputed heavyweight champion of the world ... Evander 'The Real Deal' Ho-ly-field!"

Holyfield raises his right arm in triumph. Lewis' mouth drops in amazement.

"He put up a gallant fight," Holyfield says in the postfight press conference. "But I just had the Lord on my side. When he knocked me down in the fifth round, he really didn't hurt me. But it was then that I asked God to give me the strength to win the fight."

Lewis is incredulous. "God loves me, too," he says. "It has nothing to do with God. It has to do with judges who don't know what they're doing. I won that fight. I knocked him down. I turned him into a bloody mess. Look at my face. Not a scratch on it. I demand a rematch. This was outrageous."

Holyfield earns $30-million. Lewis gets $20-million.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Holyfield's faith in God has helped him overcome heavy odds since turning pro as a 177-pounder in 1984. Forty-eight hours before his rematch with Moorer, Commander Vander stretched his vocal cords at a gospel meeting staged at a baseball park in Las Vegas.

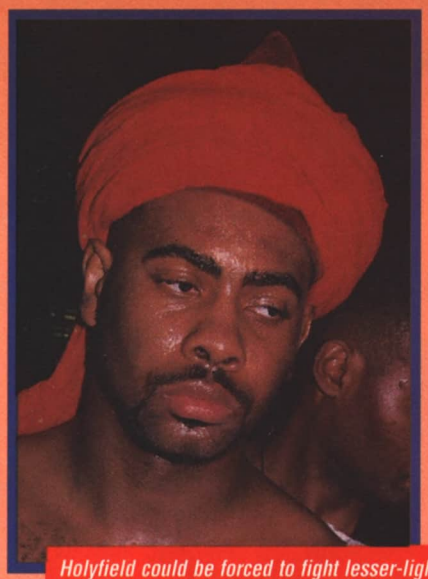
May 10: Journalists and fans from around the world scream for Lewis-Holyfield II, claiming the fight was too close to solve anything. Holyfield, however, is noncommittal. He wants to retain his belts.

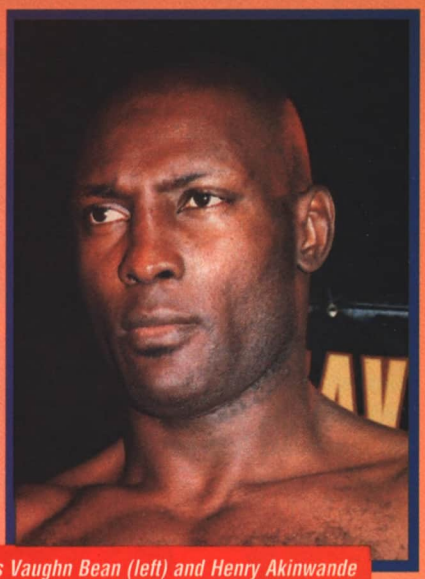
"My goal was to unify the titles," Holyfield says. "Now I feel obligated to honor them, and I intend to keep them." Holyfield claims he will defend his IBF title against Vaughn Bean on August 22 and follow that up with a WBA defense against Henry Akinwande. (Okay, this is where THE RING's crystal ball becomes cloudy. Because the Akinwande-Orlin Norris eliminator had not yet happened when we went to press, we've been forced to go out on a

limb and predict a victory for the Brit. If it turns out that Norris has beaten Akinwande by the time this magazine hits the stands, simply substitute Norris—or any other mediocre, undeserving heavyweight of your choosing—for Akinwande in all later references.)

July 9: On the one-year anniversary of his suspension, Tyson applies to the Nevada State Athletic Commission for reinstatement.

July 13: The commission convenes the following Monday at the Grant Sawyer state office building in Las Vegas and grants Tyson another license. "We feel Mr. Tyson has served an adequate suspension," NSAC chairman Dr. Elias Ghanem says.





Holyfield could be forced to fight lesser-lights Vaughn Bean (left) and Henry Akinwande (right) in order to satisfy mandatory defenses and keep both the IBF and WBA belts.

Evander Holyfield TKO 8 Michael Moorer

Las Vegas: Compared to the last time they fought, Holyfield had more, Moorer less.

In their first encounter in April of 1994, Holyfield turned in an uninspired effort against Moorer. And although Holyfield scored a knockdown, Moorer recorded the majority decision and claimed his vanquished foe's IBF and WBA championships.

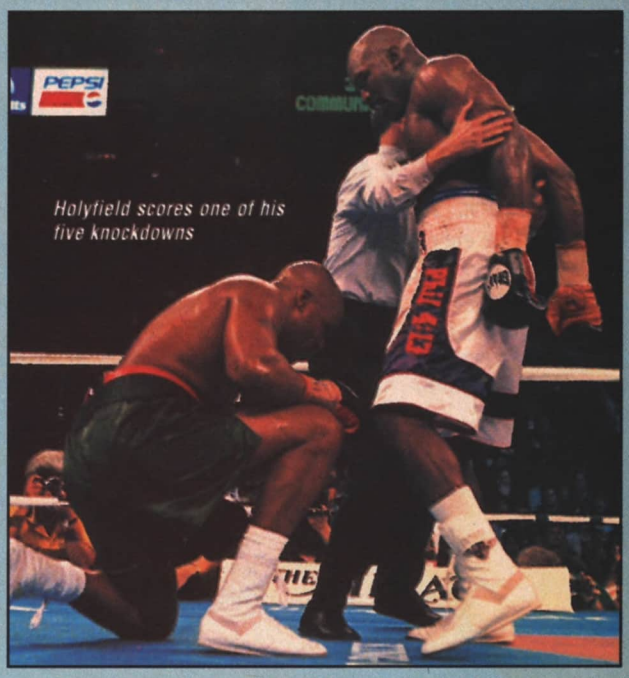
This time, however, was different, as Holyfield, three weeks after turning 35, attempted the second defense of the WBA belt. Moorer, four days before his 30th birthday, tried for the third defense of the IBF title.

In front of 13,200 fans at the Thomas & Mack Center and millions more around the world on SET pay-per-view, Moorer, 223, Detroit, won the first and second rounds before slicing Holyfield, 214, Atlanta, over the right eye in the third with an accidental headbutt. But Holyfield eventually responded. He knocked his southpaw opponent down five times in the bout. Moorer was floored for the first time when a big right sent him to a knee with 17 seconds left in the fifth round. He hit the canvas twice more in both the seventh and eighth rounds. Amazingly, Moorer got up and wanted to keep fighting every time.

But ringside physician Flip Homansky advised referee Mitch Halpern to stop the bout between the eighth and ninth rounds. Homansky claimed Moorer did not respond well enough to questions asked in his corner.

"I was so game, so hyped for the fight," said Moorer, who fell to 39-2 (31). "It's disappointing to lose, but I'm not going to criticize the doctor or anyone else. The doc stopped it, and I could have continued, but that's passed now. I'm going to go home and heal up for a while. I didn't win, but I think we put on a good show."

Holyfield, who improved to 35-3 (25), agreed.



Holyfield scores one of his five knockdowns

"I take my hat off to him," Holyfield said. "A champion shows who he is by what he does when he's tested. I hit him with good shots and he went down, but he got up and fought even harder."

At the time of the stoppage, judges Jerry Roth (USA) and Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) had the bout scored 78-69, while Glen Hamada (USA) had it 78-70—all in favor of Holyfield.

Promoter: Don King Productions

(11-8-97)

–TG

"He has been a model citizen, and we see no need to punish him further by denying his right to earn a living."

Reached at his rural estate in Southington, Ohio, Tyson is stoic. He does not thank the commission for its decision, only saying, "I will never fight in Nevada as long as I live."

July 14: King phones Holyfield to state his intentions: Two warmup fights for his reinstated cash cow and then it's Tyson-Holyfield III in Atlanta. Holyfield laughs and then thinks long and hard. King has his ear.

Holyfield discusses the notion with his wife, Janice. "What do you have to gain from this?" she asks. "We have everything we need. They're starting to call you one of the greatest of all-time. Why do you want to risk it against someone you've beaten twice?" Her husband is firm in his response: "Just because I've forgiven him doesn't mean I can't still punish him."

August 22: At Caesars Tahoe, Holyfield picks Bean apart inside six rounds, flooring his hapless challenger three times along the way before referee Mills Lane stops it. "He's the most intimidating man I've ever faced," Bean says. Bean then is asked who exactly he has faced. He cannot answer.

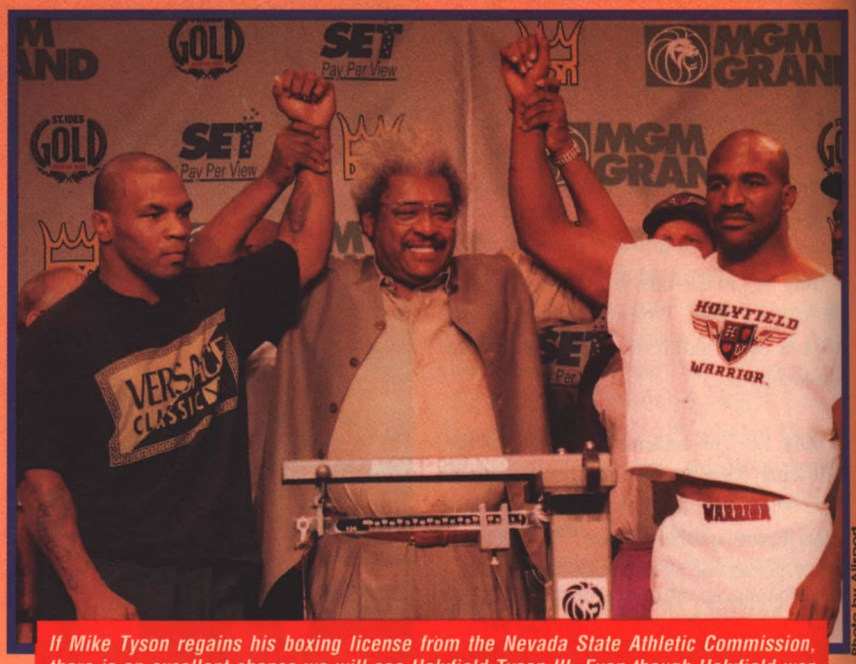


Photo by Allsport

If Mike Tyson regains his boxing license from the Nevada State Athletic Commission, there is an excellent chance we will see Holyfield-Tyson III. Even though Holyfield won both bouts, a third would still generate a huge amount of money.

August 25: King announces a blockbuster card November 14 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. The event is headlined by Holyfield's WBA defense against Akinwande. But the kicker is the undercard: Tyson will make his anticipated return against Jerry Ballard.

November 14: In a quick turnaround by Holyfield's standards—it's the first time he has fought three times in the same year since 1989—Akinwande gets dropped with a series of bodyshots in the first round. He goes down twice more in the third before Tony Orlando mercifully steps in to stop the beating.

In the precursor, Tyson knocks Ballard out with a crushing left hook to the jaw 49 seconds into the bout, inducing a Peter McNeeley flashback.

At the postfight press conference, Holyfield hints to the press his interest in a Tyson trilogy. "I think it would be a big fight," Holyfield says coyly. "I know I would beat him again, but I'm sure the public would like to see what happens in a fair rematch."

King announces Tyson's next opponent will be Frans Botha at Madison Square Garden on February 6, 1999. "It will be the most magnificent, monumental, magnanimous event New York City has ever witnessed," the quaffed one screams.

February 6, 1999: Tyson sends Botha flat on his back for the second time in the third round and the third time in the fight with a vicious right uppercut. Botha attempts to pull himself up on the ropes, but falls into press row as referee Ron Lipton grabs him. As soon as Lipton waves his right hand to end the bout, Tyson turns to face Holyfield with his hands outstretched, palms upward.

(Continued on page 80)

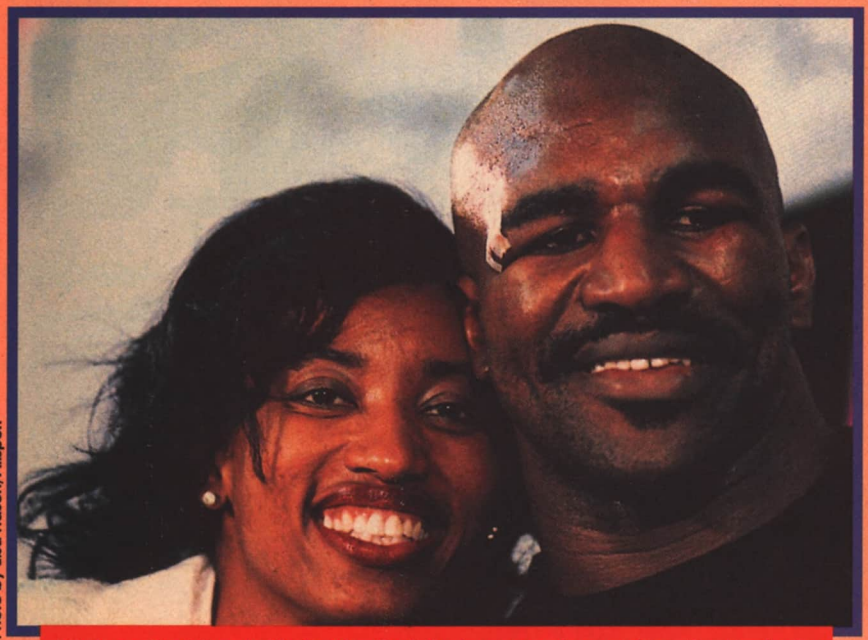


Photo by Elsa Hasch/Allsport

Whatever the future holds for The Real Deal, you can be sure his wife, Dr. Janice Holyfield, will be by his side, providing advice, inspiration, and postfight curative help.

THE DAY I WON THE TITLE

10 Champions Recall The Day That Changed Their Lives

By William Dettloff

For a fighter, there is no greater accomplishment than winning a world title. It represents the culmination of everything he has worked toward in a life dedicated to his art. It speaks to his talent, of course, but even more so to his sacrifice, his pain, and his dedication. It is recognition. It is why, even in this age of split titles and multiple governing bodies, you see grown men leap and sob for joy at the right to slap a gaudy plastic belt around their waist, if for no other reason than the fact that it bears the word "Champion." Indeed, despite the best efforts of our friends over at the WBB, WBF, IBC, et al, it remains still only the rarest of men who can turn the sweat of a thousand days and nights of anonymous, painful toil in dark, grimy gyms, into fame, respect, and riches.

There are parallels in other professions, of course. The writer who pens a Pulitzer Prize winning essay, for example, or the film director who crafts an Oscar winner, has much in common with the pug who, through his own despair and sacrifice, eventually wills himself to the summit. It is true, the fighter's craft is less esoteric and the tools cruder, but the accomplishment yields rewards just as grand. For the right to glimpse such rewards, men have been wounded and vilified, robbed blind, and, sometimes, killed. Those who survive, who become world champions, enjoy moments—however fleeting, and gained at great cost—that the rest of us will never know.

In this feature, THE RING *talks with 10 world champions and asks them to share their recollections from the day they won their first world title. Their revelations reveal anger, pathos, pride, humility, and, in some cases, humor. Each has his own story to tell. Their memories are their own.*

HAROLD JOHNSON

Opponent: Doug Jones

Title: World Light Heavyweight

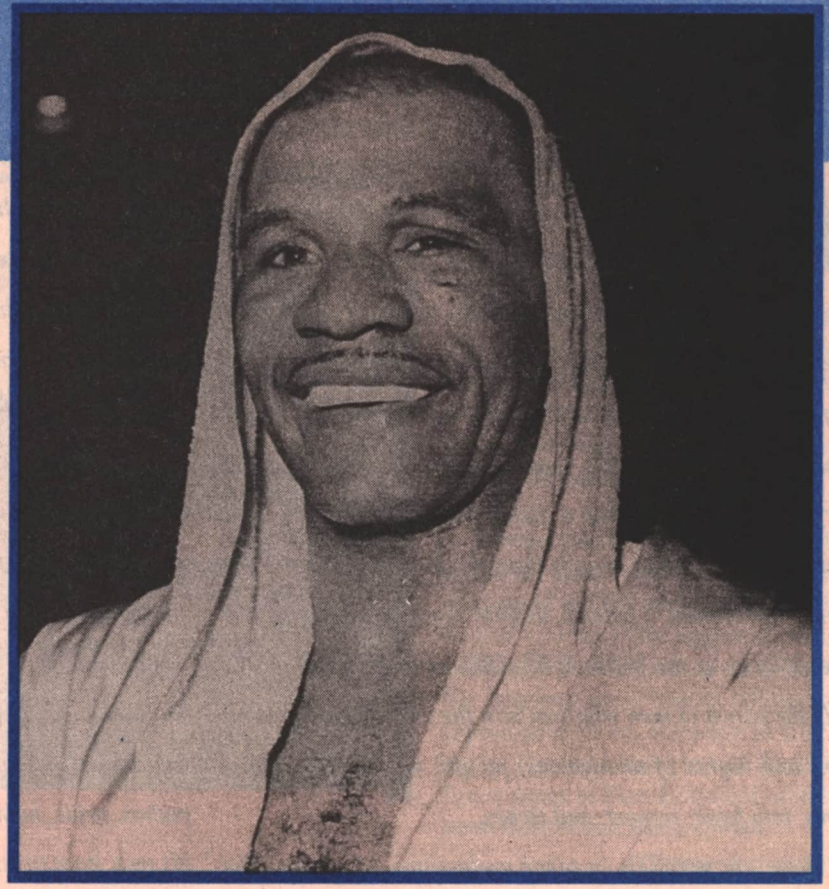
Date: May 12, 1962

Venue: The Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Result: 15-Round Unanimous Decision

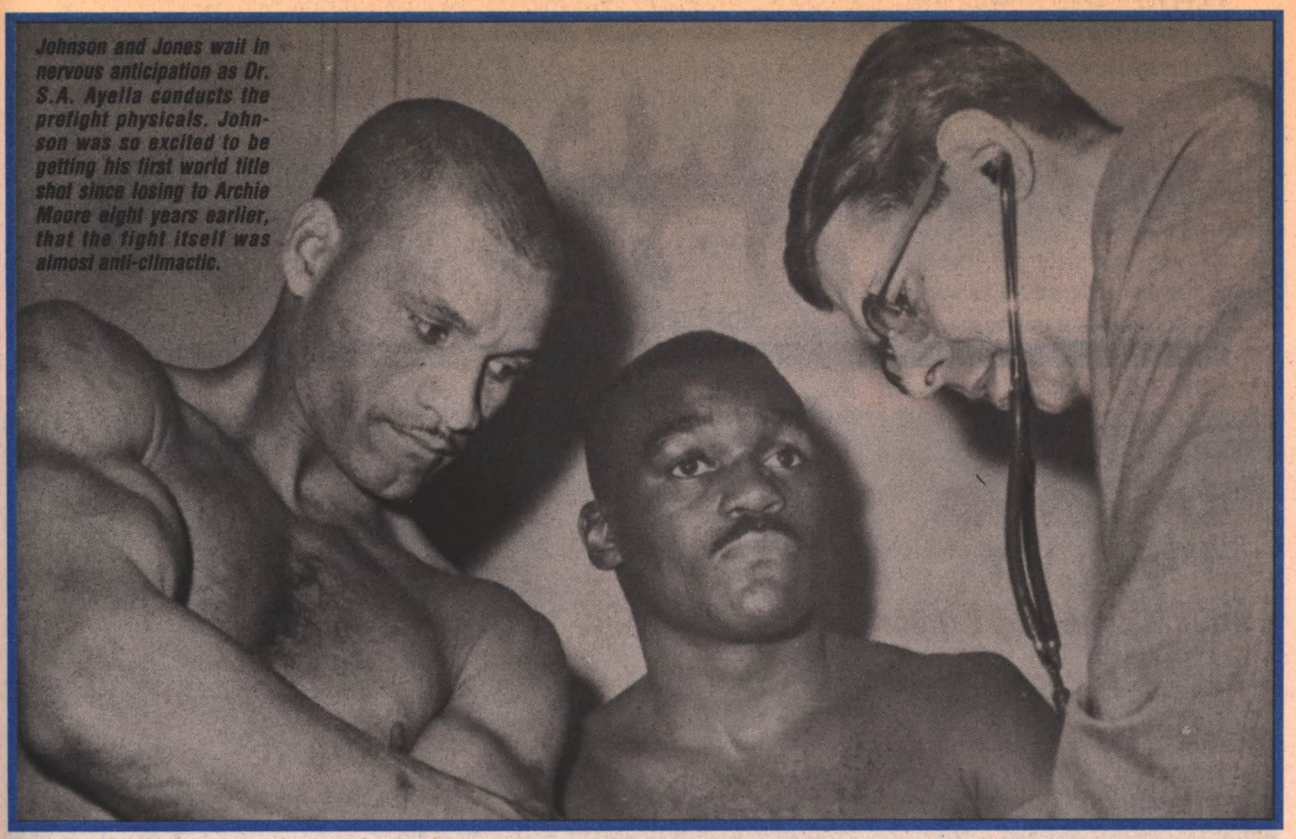
Referee: David Beloff

Synopsis: After the NBA (now the WBA) stripped Archie Moore of the belt, the rest of the world followed, and Johnson was matched with Jones for the vacant title. Boxing slickly, Johnson speared the ever-plodding Jones from a distance and scored enough to win a unanimous decision by scores of 74-61, 73-64, and 71-63.



For most fighters, the joy and gratification one usually associates with a title fight can only be experienced through winning. After all, in retrospect, to say a fighter challenged for the title is a gentle way of saying he didn't win it. But for Harold Johnson, winning the light heavyweight championship was almost anti-climactic. The real accomplishment lied in getting an opportunity at all.

"I was just so happy to be getting a shot," he said. "People were congratulating me for even getting the chance: my family, my trainers, everyone. That's because I had a hard, hard time getting fights against light heavyweights. I had to fight a lot of heavyweights, guys who outweighed me by 30 pounds. It was so hard for me to get fights that one day I finally told my trainer that I had to go see a doctor. He asked me, 'What for?' I said, 'To



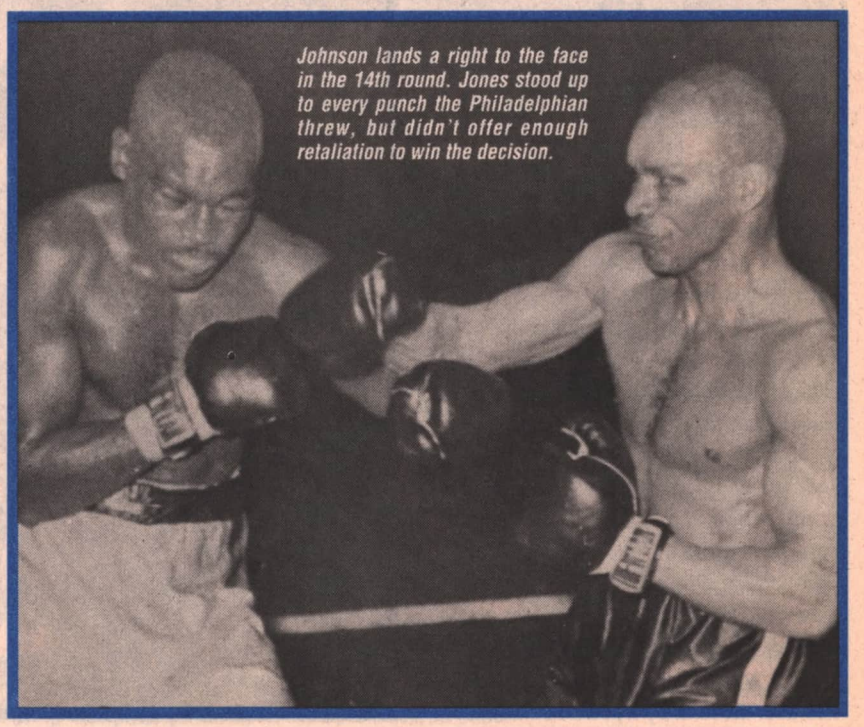
Johnson and Jones wait in nervous anticipation as Dr. S.A. Ayella conducts the prefight physicals. Johnson was so excited to be getting his first world title shot since losing to Archie Moore eight years earlier, that the fight itself was almost anti-climactic.

see if I have some kind of disease or something.' Some days I'd look in the mirror and think to myself, *What makes you so tough that nobody wants to fight you?*"

Finally getting the shot, though, had the effect one might expect. "I was kind of nervous about it," Johnson recalled, tension creeping into his voice at the recollection of an event that took place 35 years ago. "I was nervous, I couldn't wait to get it over with. It was the first time I ever really won anything." Humble words from a guy who had beaten, among others, Ezzard Charles, Arturo Godoy, Nino Valdes, and Archie Moore.

"It was a tough, tough fight. He took a really good punch. When you're a good puncher—and I had been knocking down heavyweights—and you hit a guy with your best punches and he doesn't even blink, you start thinking, *Can I even hurt this guy?* He was one of the toughest guys I ever ran across. But I was faster and landed the more meaningful punches."

As soon as he won the title, Johnson kept a promise that he had made to his mother years before. "When I was just a kid I would tell her that someday I would be a success and I'd buy her a new car. She'd say that I was just talking. My mother never wanted me to be a fighter. She always was scared for me, afraid that I was going to get hurt, but she changed a little after I started bringing home some money. She was no softy, though. Sometimes she'd box me around better than Jersey Joe Walcott did. [Walcott stopped Johnson in the third round in 1949.] But nothing was more important to me than making money to give to my mother. So right after I won the title, I bought her a brand new car, just like I always said I would. I was so happy that I was able to do it that it brought tears to my eyes and to hers, too. It meant as much to me to see my mother smile as it did to win the title. I had made my mother proud of me."



Johnson lands a right to the face in the 14th round. Jones stood up to every punch the Philadelphian threw, but didn't offer enough retaliation to win the decision.

CARLOS ORTIZ

Opponent: Joe Brown

Title: World Lightweight

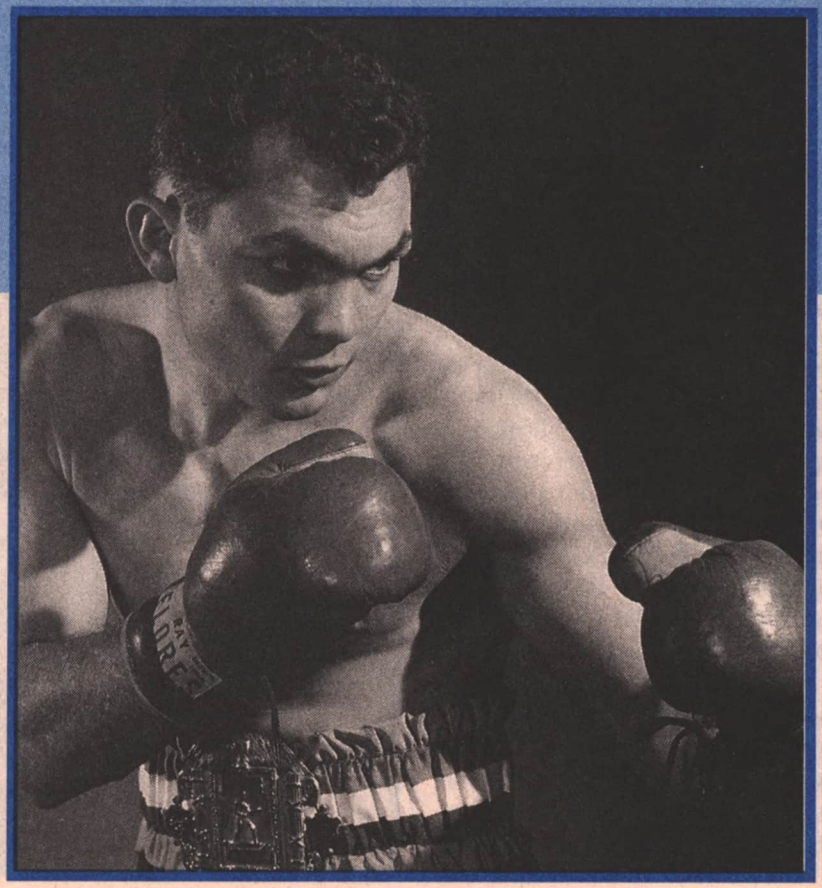
Date: April 21, 1962

Venue: Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Result: 15-Round Unanimous Decision

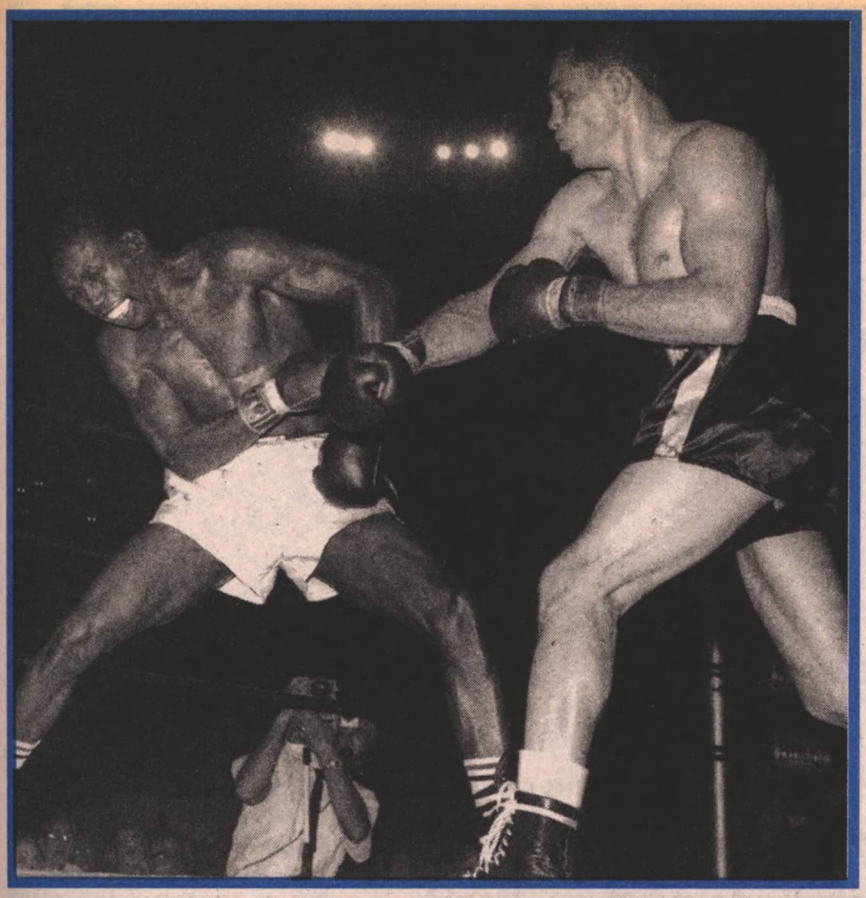
Referee: Frankie Van

Synopsis: For Brown, this was just another title defense—number 12—against just another opponent. "Old Bones" figured to glide right by Carlos Ortiz, but it never happened. The challenger attacked smartly and in spurts over 15 dreadfully slow rounds. Brown never got untracked, and the title changed hands by the lopsided scores of 74-60, 74-66, and 74-58.



As a one-time junior welterweight champion who had long stalked the lightweight belt, Ortiz hardly required extra motivation going into his fight against Brown. In Ortiz' eyes, Brown had ducked him for years. Extra incentive came nonetheless, when a series of events culminating at the weigh-in made the challenger hungrier than ever.

"I got up early the morning of the fight and figured I was going to be okay as far as my weight went, because when I had gone to bed the night before, my weight was perfect. But while I was sleeping, I must have been dreaming that I was eating or drinking water or something because when I woke up and weighed myself, I was over the limit by a pound-and-a-half."



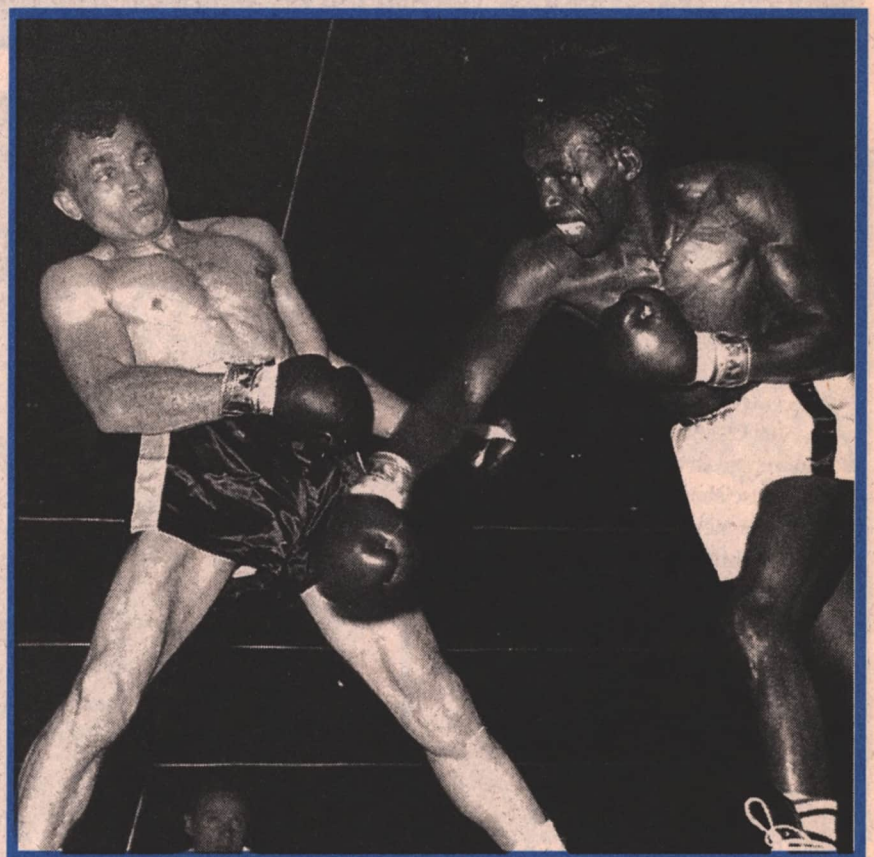
Ortiz confused Brown by using an effective jab to set up shots like this powerful right. The Puerto Rican challenger fought a surprisingly patient, intelligent fight, considering his indignation toward Brown's camp for strictly enforcing the 135-pound weight limit.

Like any dedicated challenger of his time would, Ortiz donned his plastic sweat suit, slipped out of the hotel, and headed out into the Las Vegas desert to run. "The whole time I was running, I just couldn't figure out how this had happened," he recalled. "After running for about 30 minutes I was very tired. I got back to the hotel and weighed myself again and I was still a half-pound over." Ortiz went back out into the heat again, walked for a while, then returned to his room soaked in sweat, figuring he had done all it would take to get him sufficiently under the 135-pound limit. Finally, the time to step on the scale arrived.

"We went to the weigh-in, I got on the scale, and was six ounces over." Ortiz was relieved, figuring that six ounces was no big deal. It wasn't even half a pound, after all. Surely he'd be allowed to conserve his remaining energy for the fight itself. The champion's handlers, however, had other ideas. "Brown's camp told me I had to take the six ounces off," Ortiz remembered, still incredulous at the thought. "I got so pissed off, but I put my sweat suit back on and went for another walk in the desert. I came back soaking wet. The whole time I was thinking, *He's going to be sorry for this!*"

Brown did ultimately pay for the behavior of his handlers, but not because Ortiz battered him from proverbial pillar to post in a dehydrated craze. "The fight itself was a stinker," Ortiz recalled. "Brown had a very good counter right hand, and I used to press a lot. They figured that I would go in there and slug it out, and he would be able to counter me. But I started out with a jab. From the first time I hit him with the jab, he was confused. And it went like that all night."

Midway through the fight, with the crowd voicing its disapproval over the lack of action, Ortiz returned to his corner and said, "This is silly. It's too easy!" His handlers told him to forget about the crowd and stick to the game plan. He did, winning 14 of 15 rounds. It was that easy. Much easier than, say, a 30-minute run in the desert.



Throughout the fight, Ortiz was always a step ahead of the frustrated champion. Ortiz would go on to reign as lightweight champ for most of the next six years.

VITO ANTUOFERMO

Opponent: Hugo Corro

Title: World Middleweight

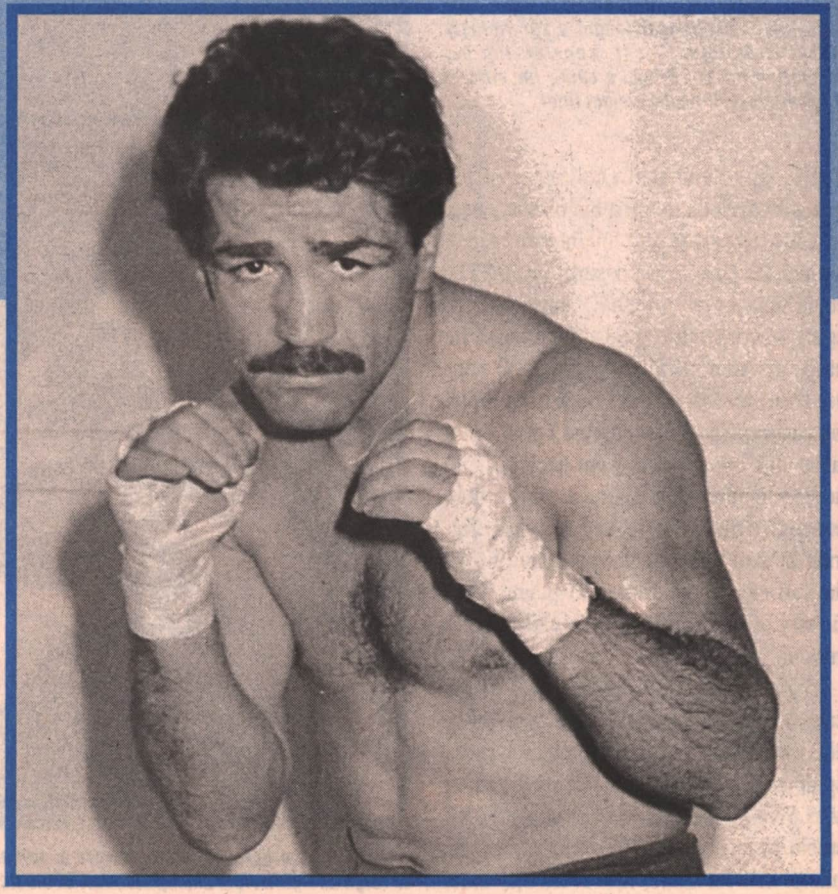
Date: June 30, 1979

Venue: Monte Carlo, Monaco

Result: 15-Round Split Decision

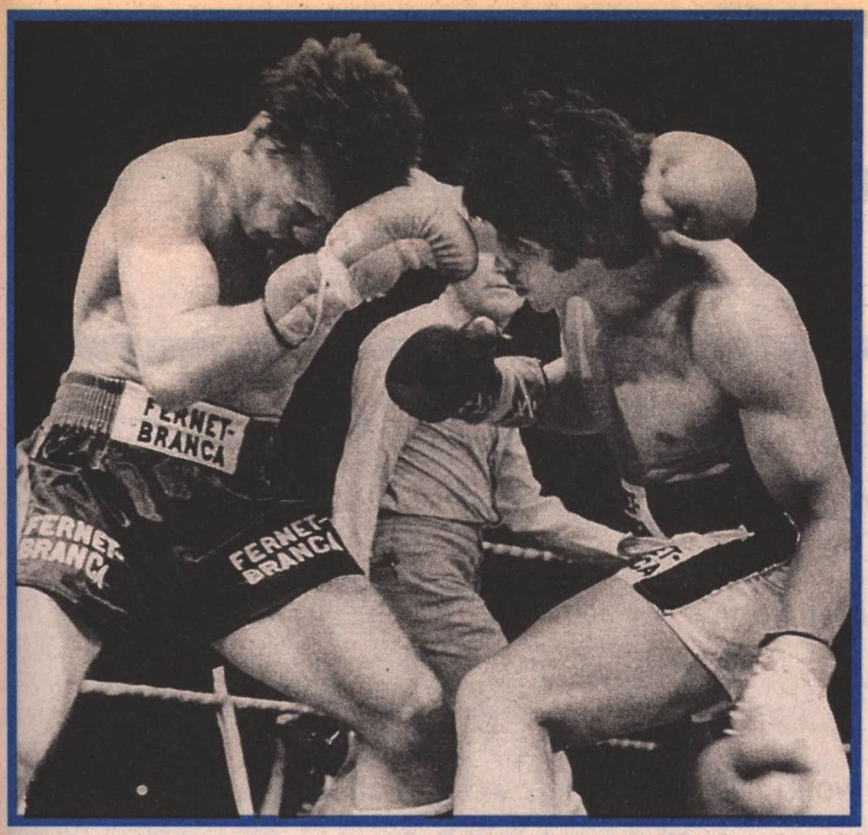
Referee: Ernesto Magana

Synopsis: It doesn't matter if you win ugly, as long as you win. That seemed to be the refrain going through Vito Antuofermo's head as he bulled, lunged, and butted his way through Corro's defense. Despite the point that was deducted from him for low blows in the sixth round, Antuofermo did enough to take the decision and the title by the split scores of 146-145, 143-142, and 145-146.



As any experienced observer of the fight game will tell you, looks are almost always deceiving. Guys who are musclebound and look like granite are often the most fragile. Conversely, the frailest-looking fighters are often the toughest. Sometimes, though, a fighter's appearance tells more about him than he would probably prefer. Ask Antuofermo.

"Corro had never lost a fight, and I had seen him on television when he beat Rodrigo Valdes twice, and Ronnie Harris," Antuofermo recalled. "He made Harris, who was a good fighter, look bad. I thought he was really good and I was concerned. He was very clever." That concern turned to something else when Antuofermo



Antuofermo and Corro exchange blows during the fifth round of their extremely close 15-round title fight. Though Antuofermo won the split decision by a point, he later learned that Howard Cosell had been telling the ABC-TV audience that Corro was in front most of the way.

finally met Corro in person a short time before the fight.

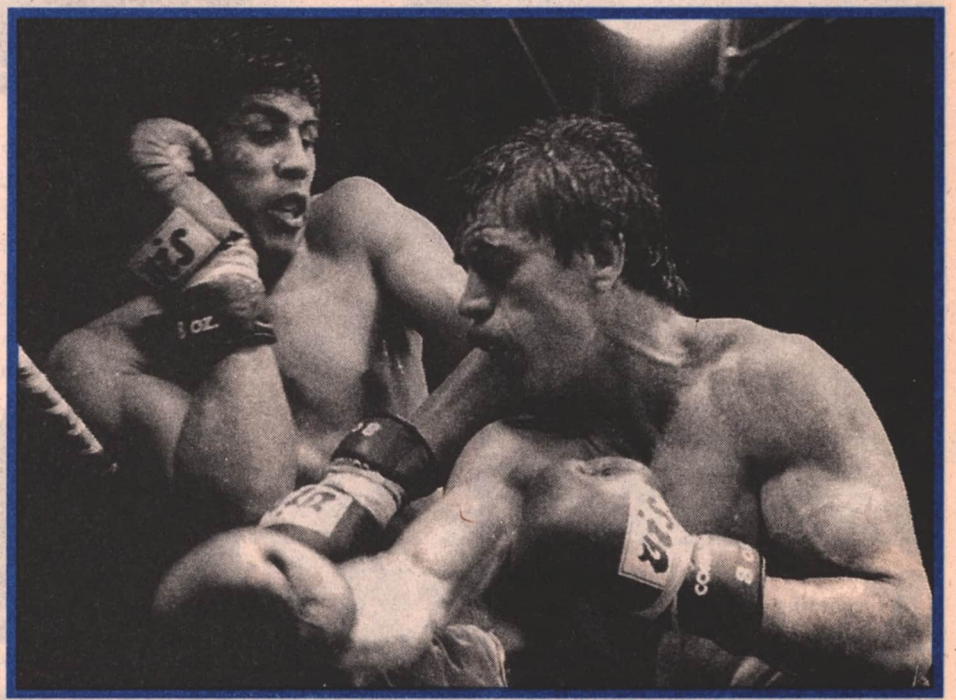
"I couldn't believe it," he said. "Here was a guy who had 48 or 49 fights and his nose didn't look like it had ever been broken, like it was never even touched. There were no marks or scars around his eyebrows. He looked like a girl, like someone who had never been hit. That's when I knew I was going to walk right through him."

Antuofermo did indeed walk right through his opponent that night, but that's not how everyone saw it. At least, not until the fight was just about over. "It went 15 rounds and I couldn't get a good shot in. If anyone landed a punch the whole fight it was me, because he was just looking to survive," said Antuofermo, sounding as though he wouldn't mind an opportunity to get a good one in now, 18 years after the fact. "But afterward, Alex Wallau told me that during the entire fight, Howard Cosell was talking like he had Corro winning, and saying that Corro was ahead on the scorecards."

According to Antuofermo, Wallau sneaked a peak at the actual scores after the 14th round, saw that the challenger led on two of the three judges' cards, and told Cosell what he had found. "Suddenly, Cosell changed his tune and had me ahead."

Antuofermo never slept that night, instead enjoying a party thrown for him by his promoter, a celebration he called the biggest he had ever seen. He probably wished he had slept when, the next day, he and his camp drove to Milan so Antuofermo could visit with family, and saw something right out of a nightmare. "We were on the highway and were about to go under an overpass. I looked up and saw a car that had driven right off the bridge and was literally flying through the air. It was about to fly right into one of those big, cement columns that hold up bridges. Then I saw it hit." Antuofermo and his crew kept driving, and later the new champ was presented with a medal of honor in Rome.

Even with the victory, the celebration, and the medal, something was missing. In his next fight, Antuofermo found out what it was. "Winning the title was good, but it didn't mean as much as when I fought Marvin Hagler [a 15-round draw on November 30, 1979]. That was the night I felt like I was fighting for the title."



In a moment typical of the fight's competitiveness, Antuofermo pinned Corro along the ropes in the 11th round, but the defending champion countered his powerpunches effectively. Though he lost a point for a low blow, Antuofermo's grit and determination carried him to the world title.

TERRY NORRIS

Opponent: John Mugabi

Title: WBC Super Welterweight

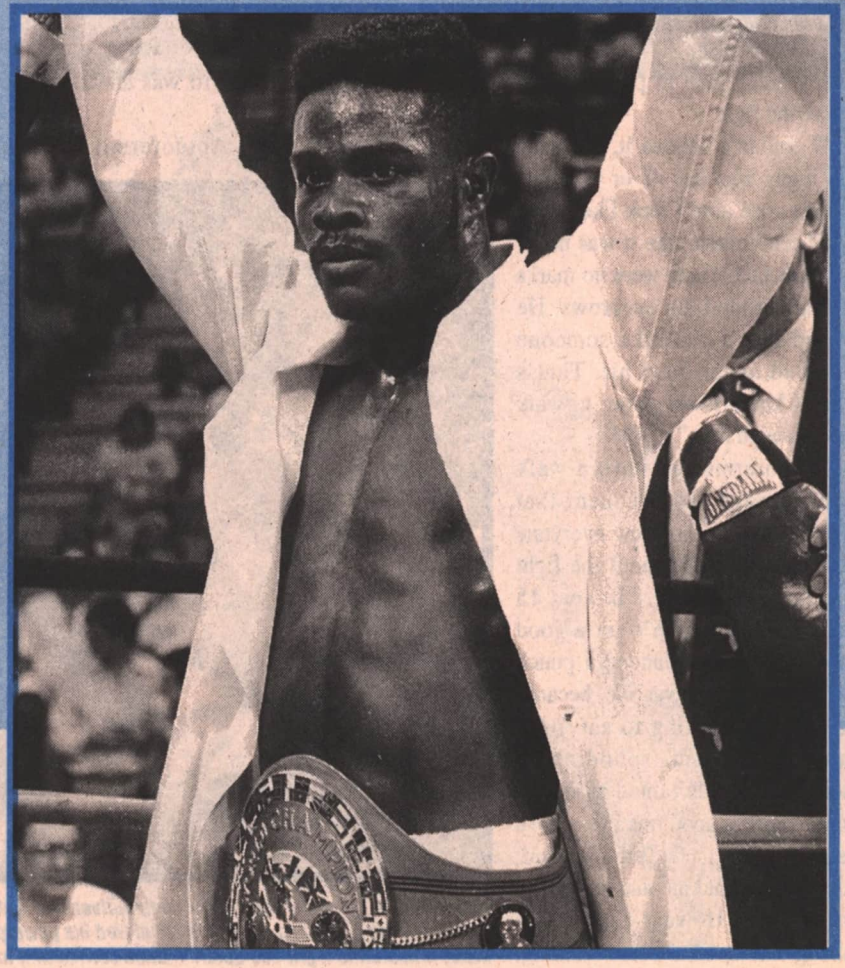
Date: March 31, 1990

Venue: The Sun Dome, Tampa, Florida

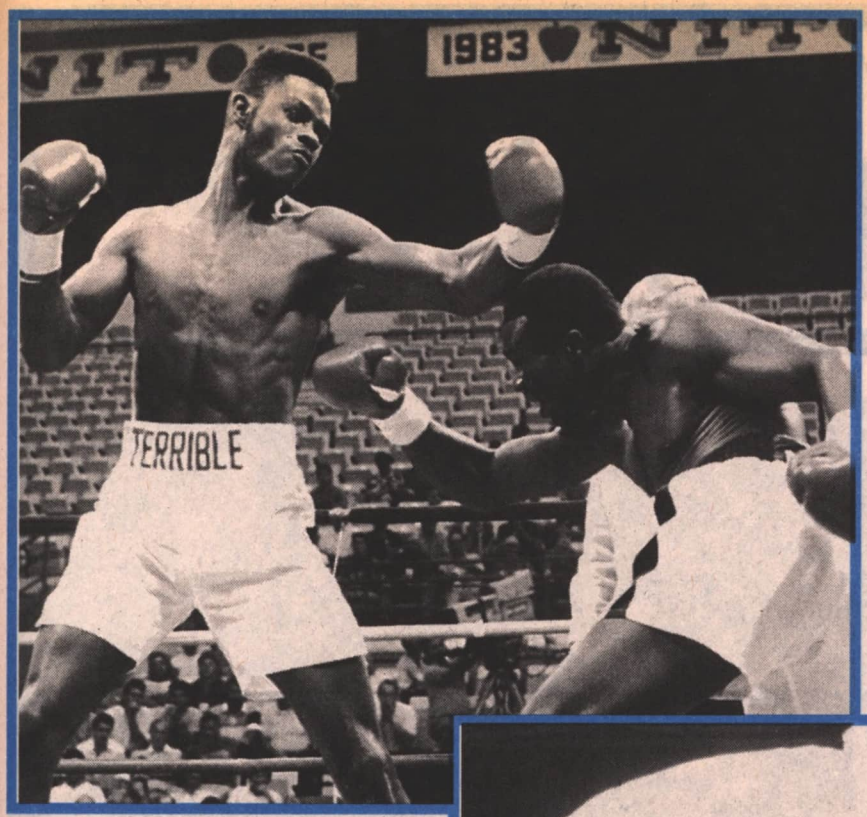
Result: KO 1

Referee: Eddie Eckertt

Synopsis: In his first go at a world title, Terry Norris was starched by Julian Jackson after letting his opponent off the hook. He wouldn't make the same mistake twice. Norris hurt Mugabi 30 seconds in, then jumped on him with a volley of blows that resulted in a knockdown. Mugabi rose, but with the round's end in sight, Norris launched a perfectly timed right, sending "The Beast" down and out at 2:47 of round one. Mugabi never moved during referee Eckertt's count.



According to the teachings of the legendary Cus D'Amato and other wise, old boxing sages, fear can be a prize fighter's best friend or his worst enemy. At its worst, it can paralyze a fighter, rendering him helpless against an oppo-



Mugabi made a couple of mistakes in the early moments of the bout, and Norris made him pay. After losing the previous year to Julian Jackson in his first bid for a world title, "Terrible Terry" made sure not to let his second opportunity pass him by.

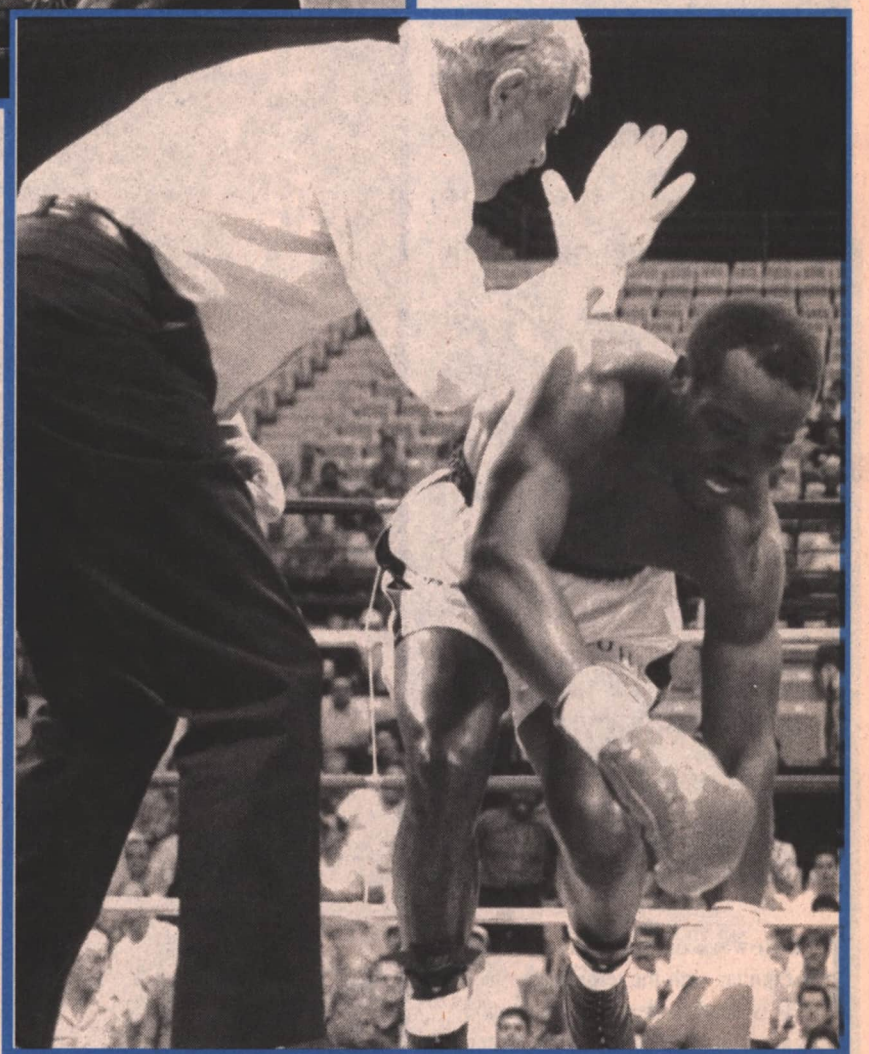
nent's attack. At its best, it heightens his awareness to such a level that he performs better than he could otherwise.

Like most fighters, Norris has known fear. Going into his bout with Mugabi, Norris had more reason than most to be nervous. Though perhaps just past his prime, Mugabi still inspired fear in the hearts of his opponents. Regardless of any erosion of his boxing skills that might have taken place, Mugabi remained a terrifying puncher who demanded respect in the ring.

"Everyone was afraid of him. I remember thinking, *I'm going to fight The Beast*," Norris said, emphasizing the nickname Mugabi carried with him into the ring like an extra weapon. If that wasn't enough reason for worry, Norris had the memory of his first title shot still ringing in his head. "I was wondering, *What if I get caught with a good shot the way I was against Julian Jackson, and get knocked out?*"

As it turned out, Norris' nervousness helped him. "I've noticed since then that I fight better when I go in a little nervous. If I feel a little scared before I go in, a little jittery, like the day I won the title, then I know I'm going to fight my best." Indeed, it was Mugabi who suffered the stunning kayo that day. Maybe he wasn't as scared as he should have been. "I figured Mugabi would be set and ready to go. But he made a couple of mistakes and I caught him," Norris said. After the first hard punch landed, causing Mugabi to wilt, Norris had a revelation: "I remember thinking, *This is going to be easier than I thought!*"

It wasn't as easy as what the new champion did later that evening. "After I won the fight, my wife and I went home and made my son. That was the most important thing about that day." Little Terry Jr., now seven years old, is probably too young to understand yet his connection to the day his famous father won his first world title. Maybe someday Norris will let him in on the secret.



Referee Eckertt lays the count on Mugabi after he went down the first time. The next time Mugabi hit the canvas, he stayed there, making Norris the new WBC super welter champ.

CARMEN BASILIO

Opponent: Tony DeMarco

Title: World Welterweight

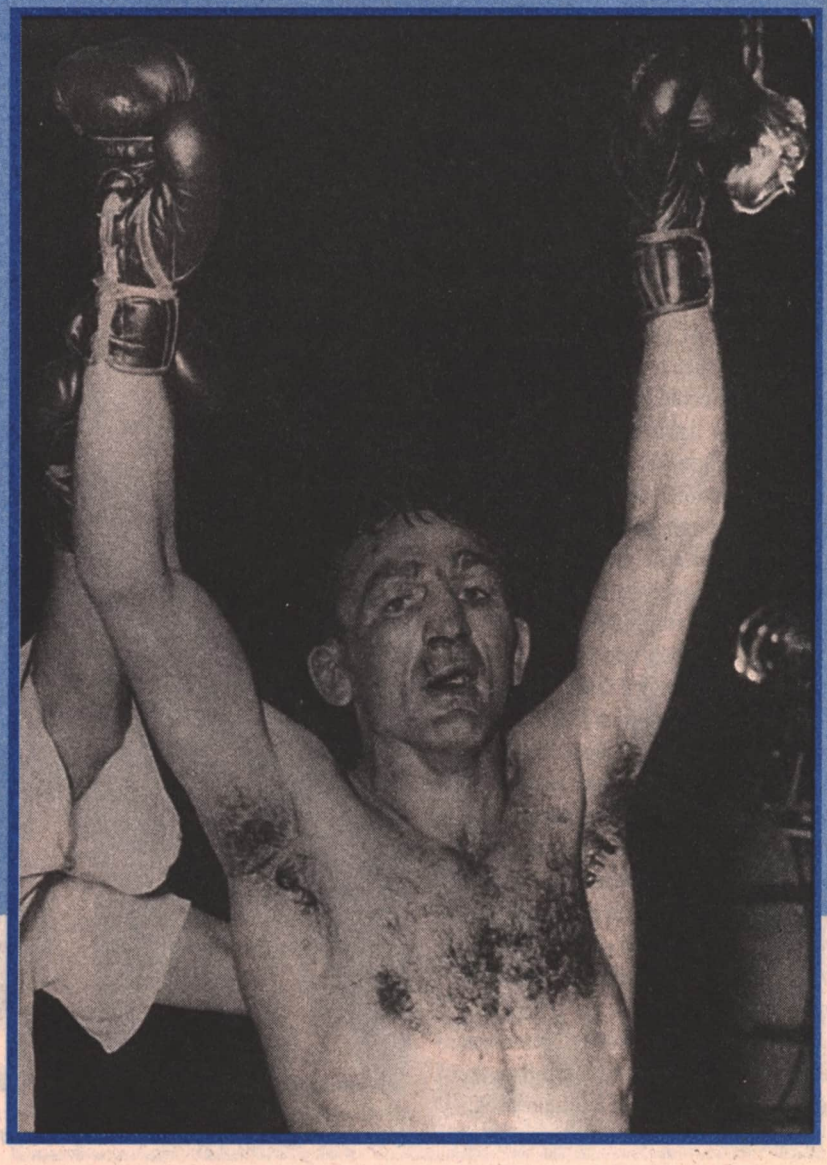
Date: June 10, 1955

Venue: War Memorial Auditorium, Syracuse, New York

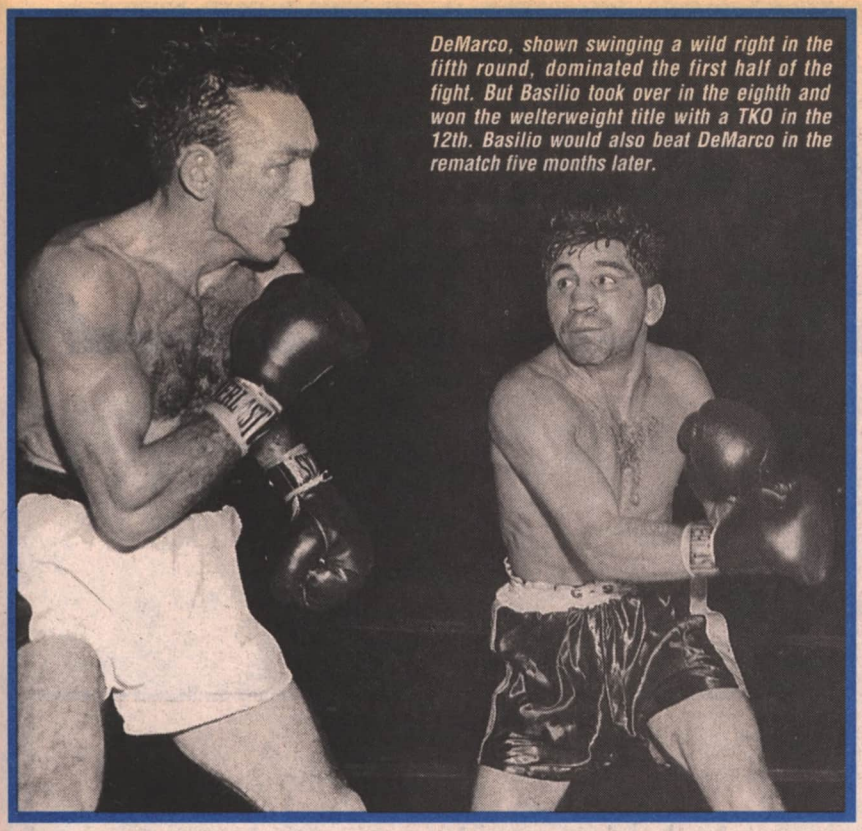
Result: KO 12

Referee: Harry Kessler

Synopsis: This one had brawl written all over it, and lived up to the hype. DeMarco dominated early, battering Basilio and cutting him over both eyes. The challenger finally got going in the eighth and scored two knockdowns in the 10th. After an extended assault in the 12th that left DeMarco groggy and reeling, referee Kessler waved it over at 1:52.



Followers of most any sport are familiar with the term "game face." It is used to describe the anxious, belligerent state of mind most athletes exhibit—either willingly or unwillingly—in the final days before competing, espe-



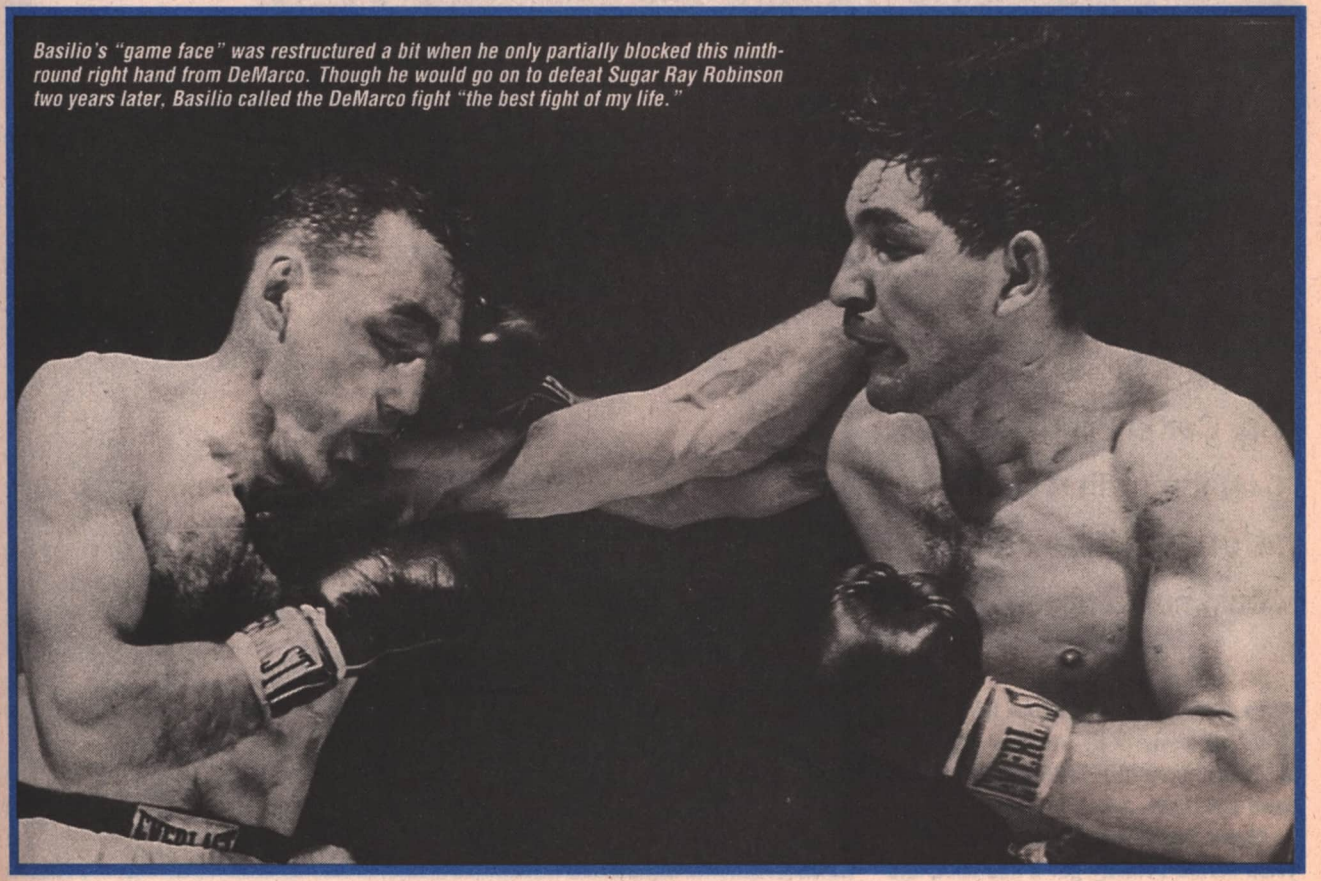
DeMarco, shown swinging a wild right in the fifth round, dominated the first half of the fight. But Basilio took over in the eighth and won the welterweight title with a TKO in the 12th. Basilio would also beat DeMarco in the rematch five months later.

cially in a major event. For the normally docile Carmen Basilio, an upstate New York onion farmer when he wasn't bashing heads in the ring, the term took on new meaning before his fight with DeMarco.

"Before the fight, my two managers—I had a pair of managers I couldn't stand—kept coming around, and were always asking me to do stuff I didn't want to do," Basilio remembered, without elaborating on the specifics of his managers' requests. "Now, I was always a little mean on the day of a fight, a little on edge, and even more so before a big fight. My one manager, Joe Netro, came around on the day of the fight, bugging me about something. I just started screaming at him, really let him have it. That was it. They [my managers] wouldn't come around me again before the fight. They knew I'd scream at them."

Considering DeMarco's reputation as a fearsome left-hook artist, Basilio could be forgiven for his outburst. "I was a little nervous going into the fight. I knew DeMarco was a great puncher, because he had just knocked out Johnny Saxton in the 14th round. So I knew he was dangerous and that I had to be real careful. But I was in great shape and it was the best fight of my life."

As for his managers, things didn't get much easier down the road. "I was that way, especially before a big fight," Basilio recalled with a chuckle. "And they were all big fights to me."



Basilio's "game face" was restructured a bit when he only partially blocked this ninth-round right hand from DeMarco. Though he would go on to defeat Sugar Ray Robinson two years later, Basilio called the DeMarco fight "the best fight of my life."

JAKE LaMOTTA

Opponent: Marcel Cerdan

Title: World Middleweight

Date: June 16, 1949

Venue: Briggs Stadium, Detroit, Michigan

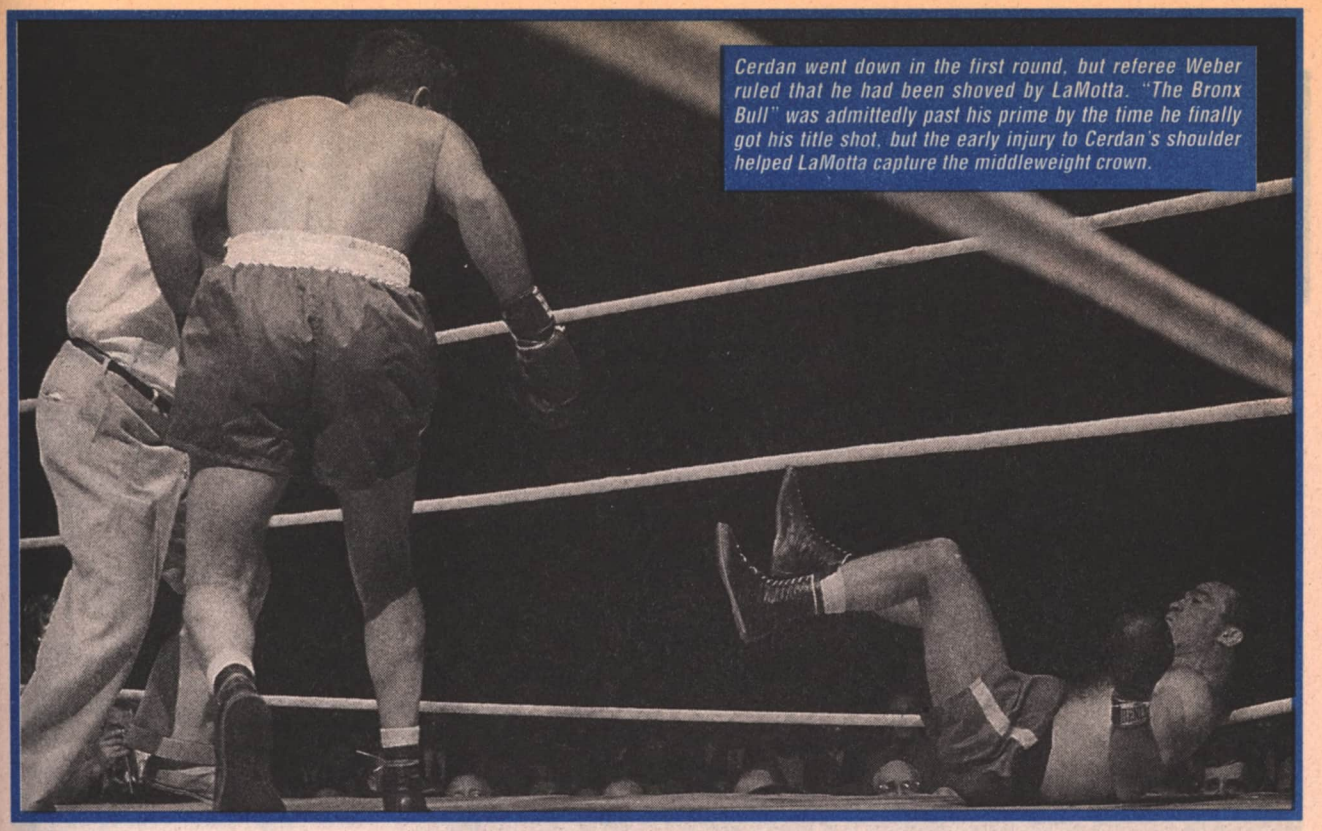
Result: KO 10

Referee: Johnny Weber

Synopsis: Though they didn't know it at the time, the 22,185 roaring Detroit fight fans who cheered LaMotta's entrance into the ring would have more to cheer about when, sometime during the first three rounds, Cerdan tore a muscle in his left shoulder, rendering it useless. LaMotta took advantage and swarmed all over his handicapped foe, inflicting a brutal body beating. Cerdan finally relented after the ninth round, telling referee Weber that he could not continue.

It's been said often that good things come to those who wait. Another school of thought holds that better things come to those who hustle.

"I was the uncrowned champion for five years before I finally got a title shot, and



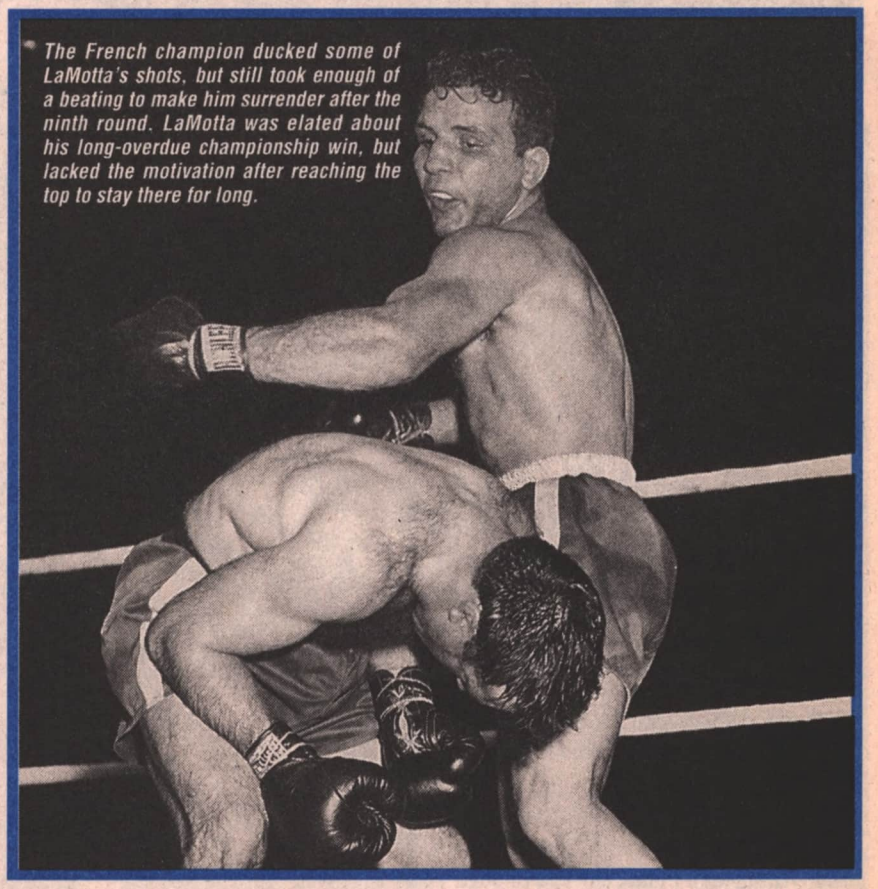
Cerdan went down in the first round, but referee Weber ruled that he had been shoved by LaMotta. "The Bronx Bull" was admittedly past his prime by the time he finally got his title shot, but the early injury to Cerdan's shoulder helped LaMotta capture the middleweight crown.

even then I had to pay $20,000 under the table to get it," LaMotta said, still full of resentment—but not anger—at the memory. "I was on my way out already." The fact that he viewed himself as being used up didn't take away from his confidence, however, nor from his determination to win the championship. He had waited too long.

"The day of the fight, I said to my brother, 'Joey, I'm going to be the world champion by the time the day is over. I think I could lick Joe Louis tonight.' I was just so naturally high that I could've licked five champions that night. I just had so much willpower and determination. I was obsessed by it."

That the opponent was the respected Cerdan, whom LaMotta calls "probably the greatest champion to ever come out of Europe," mattered little. "I had to be the champ that night. That night, no punches bothered me." He added with some bravado, "Well, punches never really bothered me, but especially not that night. I just kept pushing and pushing and giving everything that I had."

With all that pushing, something had to go and, eventually, it was Cerdan. "When the fight was stopped I kissed everyone [in my corner] twice and touched the ground, and said, 'This is my town. Detroit is my town.' I was in another world. I was so happy. I had achieved my goal, something I had prayed for all my life." The euphoria, as you may have guessed, didn't last long. "Then, about two days later, I said to myself, *Where do I go from here?*"



The French champion ducked some of LaMotta's shots, but still took enough of a beating to make him surrender after the ninth round. LaMotta was elated about his long-overdue championship win, but lacked the motivation after reaching the top to stay there for long.

BOB FOSTER

Opponent: Dick Tiger

Title: World Light Heavyweight

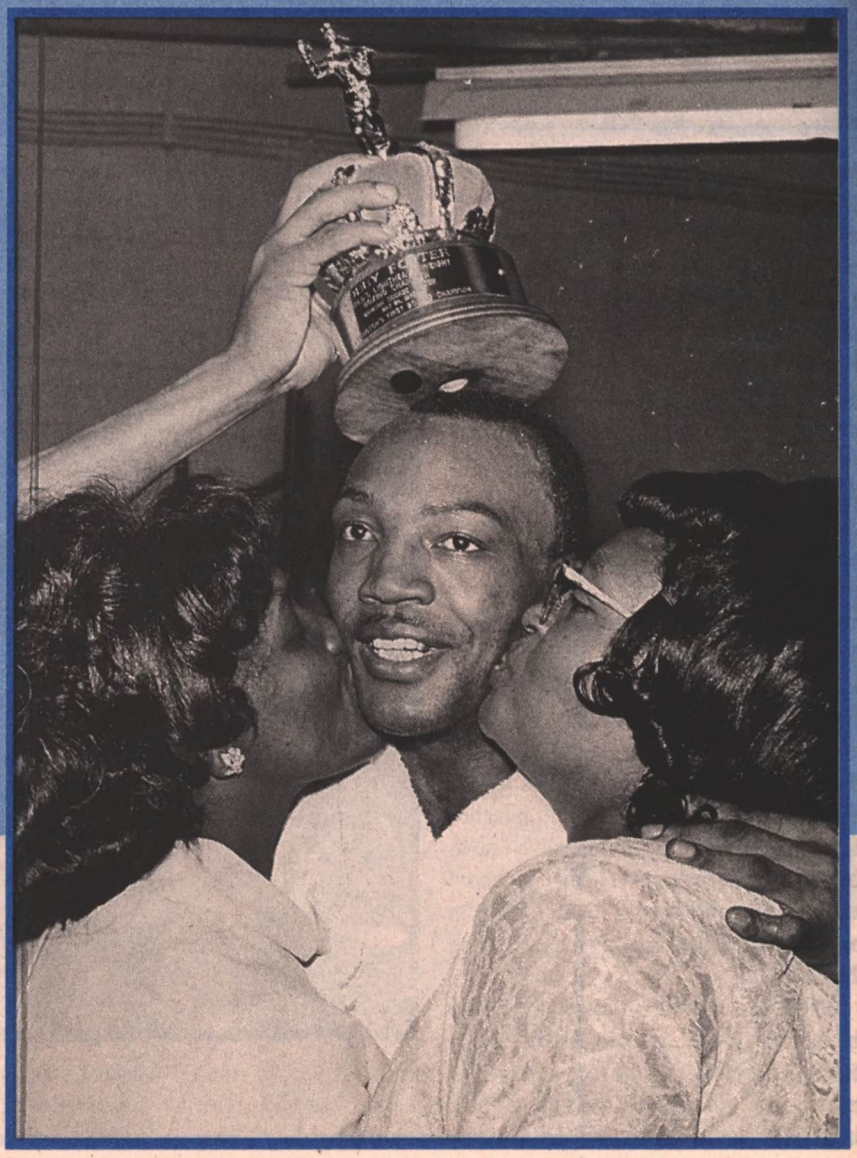
Date: May 24, 1968

Venue: Madison Square Garden, New York

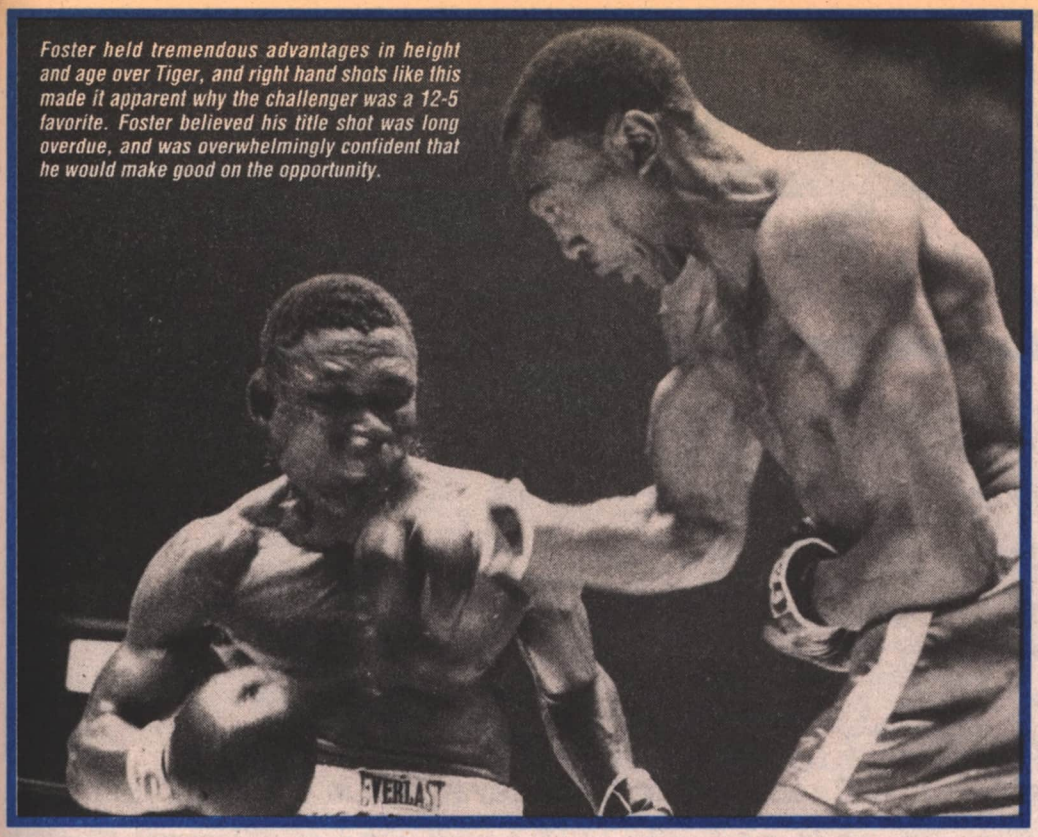
Result: KO 4

Referee: Mark Conn

Synopsis: Foster, at 6'3", dwarfed the 5'8" Tiger. The first three rounds brought little action as neither fighter asserted himself. Then, a mid-ring exchange in the fourth came to an abrupt end when Foster landed an electrifying left hook that dropped Tiger on his back. He was counted out by referee Conn at 2:05 of the round



Some fighters fight for the love of it. Some because they know of nothing else to do. Others—perhaps many more than we would prefer to think—do it almost solely for the money it will bring them. We shouldn't think any less of those who are inspired only by the promise of the endless riches they'll enjoy when they are called champion. (A king's ransom,



Foster held tremendous advantages in height and age over Tiger, and right hand shots like this made it apparent why the challenger was a 12-5 favorite. Foster believed his title shot was long overdue, and was overwhelmingly confident that he would make good on the opportunity.

win and this was his chance to make a few big bucks of his own before being put out to pasture. Certainly the oddsmakers thought so, making Foster a 12-5 favorite. And just as surely, the challenger thought so as well. "I knew I was going to become the champion. I knew as soon as I saw Tiger that there was no way in God's creation that this guy was going to beat me. I wasn't even worried about the fight at all."

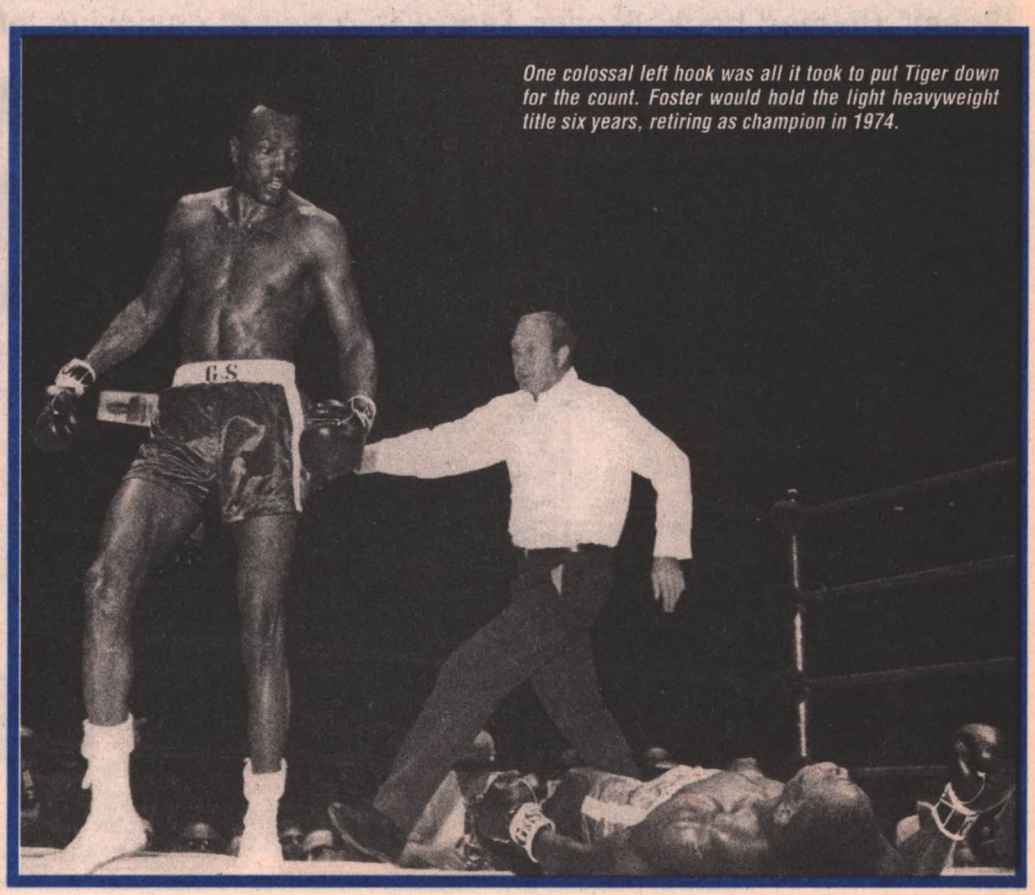
It wasn't that Foster was one of those fighters who had no fear. Even with that paralyzing power. He freely admits that "other times I would get nervous like any other fighter would. But not for Tiger. Once I sized him up, I knew there was no way he was going to beat me. He was just too small."

indeed.) It is called *prize* fighting, after all.

"What do I remember about the day I won the title?" he asked. "That I didn't make enough money to pay for a cab to get my mother back to the hotel." Foster is joking—sort of. The bitterness is still there.

"The light heavyweight division has always been a bad division for making money," he lamented, thus explaining all those unsuccessful forays into the land of the heavyweights. "And no one really wanted to fight me. I didn't make any money at all off the Tiger fight. I had to give Tiger $100,000 to take the fight, even though I had been the number-one contender on and off for several years." Essentially, Foster was paid mere training expenses for the bout, which was his ticket to making the kind of purses many—including himself—thought he had long deserved. As it was, his title shot came at the fairly advanced age of 29.

At 38, maybe Tiger knew he couldn't



One colossal left hook was all it took to put Tiger down for the count. Foster would hold the light heavyweight title six years, retiring as champion in 1974.

RAY MANCINI

Opponent: Arturo Frias

Title: WBA Lightweight

Date: May 8, 1982

Venue: Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Result: KO 1

Referee: Richard Greene

Synopsis: This fight wasn't 10 seconds old before everyone in attendance knew it wasn't going the distance. Both fighters opened throwing bombs, and it was Frias who struck first, twice staggering Mancini and cutting him over the right eye. "Boom Boom" stormed back, flooring Frias with a pair of crunching left hooks. He then pinned Frias to the ropes and assailed him with more than 30 unanswered blows, prompting referee Greene to call it off at 2:54 of the first round.

Strange as it sounds, for Ray Mancini the fight was the easy part. It was the time leading up to the bout that proved most harrowing.

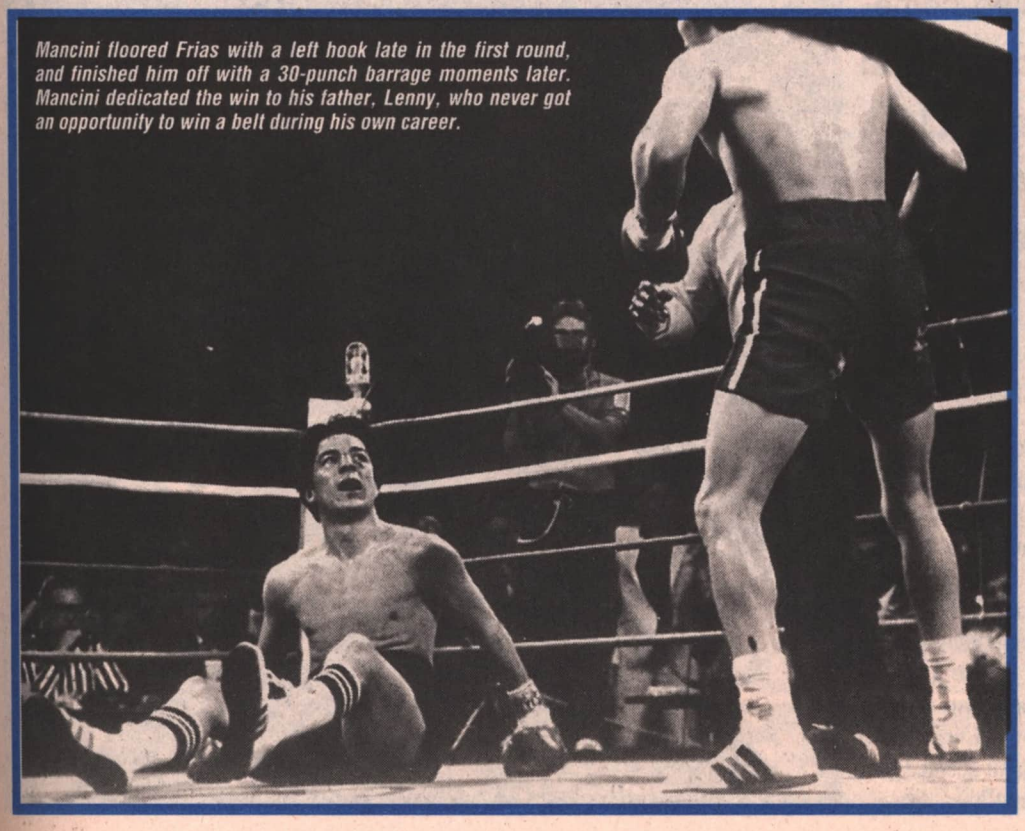
"About two weeks before the fight, we were at training camp in Tucson, Arizona, and two detectives showed up saying they needed to speak with me," Mancini said. Intrigued, he listened to the officers tell him that they had received a call from a maid who was employed at the hotel where Mancini and his camp were staying. According to the maid, two men—one armed with a rifle, the other with a shot-

gun—came in asking where Mancini's room was. Sensing trouble, the maid pleaded ignorance. After taking a quick look around, the two gunmen left, returning to a car in which several other rifle-toting passengers were awaiting their return. "The police asked the maid what she thought might have happened if they found me. She said she thought they were going to kill me." Undeterred, Mancini did his roadwork the next morning—with the two detectives in tow.

"To this day we don't know what that was all about," he said. "At the time, I wasn't nervous about it because I was so focused on the fight. But to think about it now, it's pretty scary."

That incident behind them, the camp proceeded to Las Vegas, and things progressed without incident until just before the final press conference when David Wolf, Mancini's rather eccentric manager, became annoyed with some aspect of the promotion. "Something ticked him off and he told the promoters and everyone that we weren't going to the final press conference. I said 'Dave, bulls___! Are you crazy? This is my fight and I'm going.' We didn't speak to one another again until after the fight. Now, at the same time, Frias had gotten a nick on his nose in training, and they didn't want anyone to know about it. So he didn't go to the press conference, but his manager, Norm Kaplan, did. So there we were; I was a fighter with no manager and he was a manager with no fighter."

The battle for the WBA lightweight title started off wildly, with Frias actually getting the better of the opening exchanges. Despite several distractions developing in the days leading up to the fight, Mancini was fully focused.



Mancini floored Frias with a left hook late in the first round, and finished him off with a 30-punch barrage moments later. Mancini dedicated the win to his father, Lenny, who never got an opportunity to win a belt during his own career.

Even after all the distractions, it was indeed Mancini's fight, though it didn't look like it at first. "He hit me with a hook and then jumped on me. There was a point for several seconds when I was just trying to survive the round. Then I fired back and dropped him." For Mancini, a fighter who relied as much on his adrenaline as he did his left hook, that was all the push he needed. "At that point, I was Hercules. There was such a rush of euphoria. And when I won, it was the single greatest moment of my professional life."

DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI

Opponent: Matthew Saad Muhammad

Title: WBC Light Heavyweight

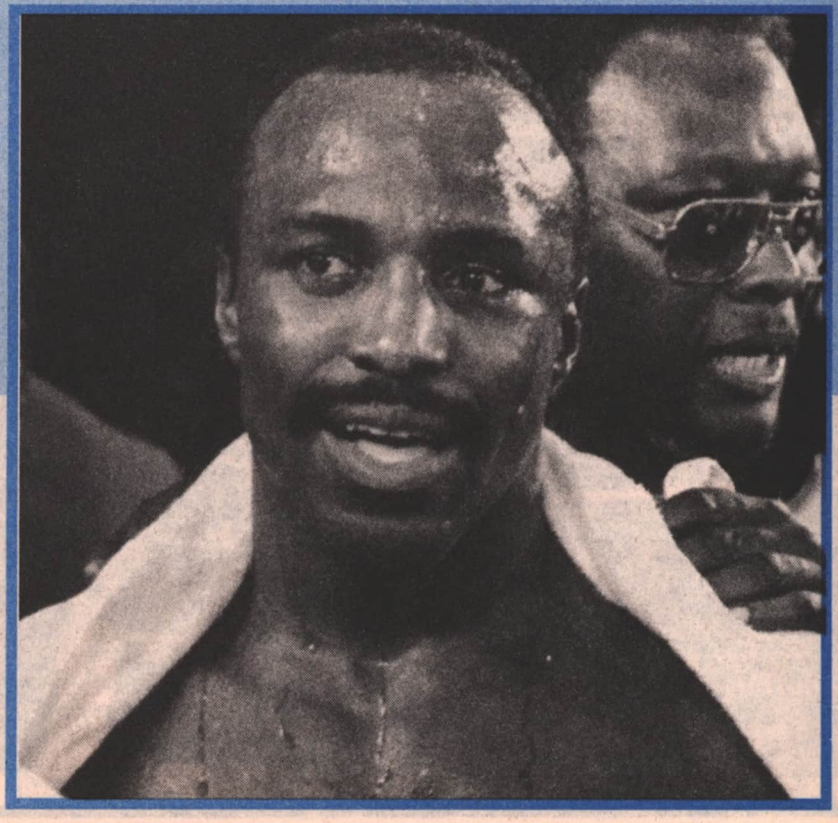
Date: December 19, 1981

Venue: The Playboy Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Result: KO 10

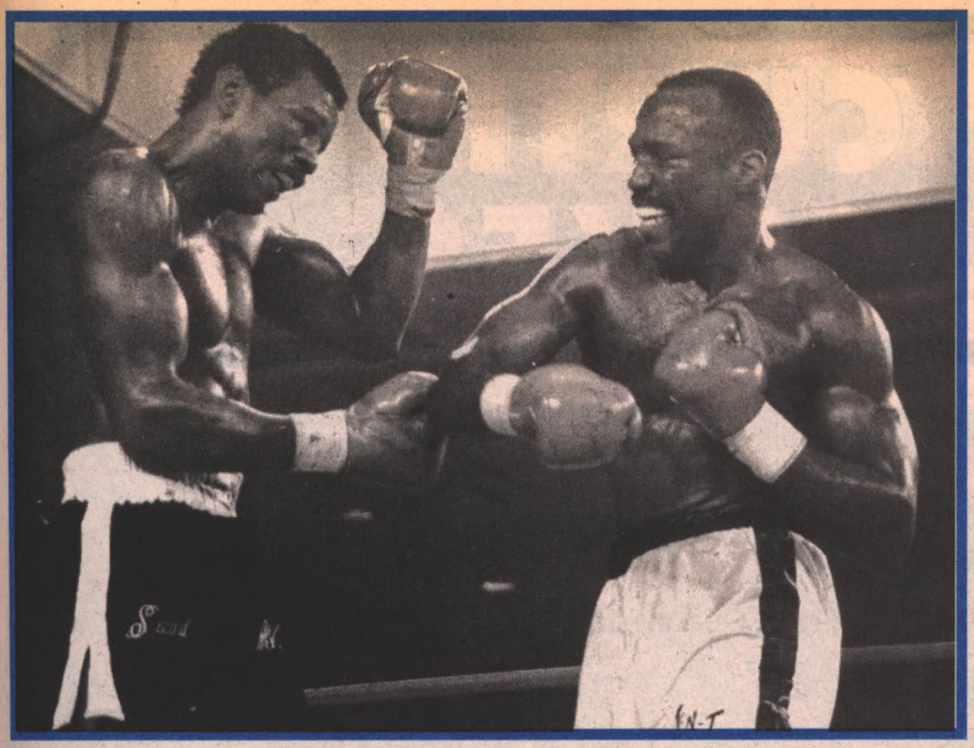
Referee: Arthur Mercante

Synopsis: Those who knew Saad Muhammad as the miracle man, knew it had to come to an end sooner or later, and it did against Qawi. From the start, "The Camden Buzzsaw" outworked and outfought his opponent, snarling devilishly all the while. After six or seven rounds, it became clear that Muhammad would not be launching one of his patented comebacks. A right hand floored the champion in the 10th, and a followup barrage compelled referee Mercante to stop it at 2:54 of the round.



It was all about staying power.

If you were one of Muhammad's title challengers before Dwight Muhammad Qawi got to him, you probably would have zeroed in on that porous defense and the tender facial skin and figured, "All I have to do is jump on this guy, empty my guns, and maybe go home early." Take a shot. Why not? Even if you knew also of his granite chin, heavy power, and near legendary recuperative powers, it seemed as reasonable a strategy as any other. Qawi



Qawi made certain he was in the best shape of his career, enabling him to unleash an unrelenting attack on the champion. "The Camden Buzzsaw" believes his conditioning was what allowed him to topple the valiant Muhammad, a task at which so many before him had tried and failed.

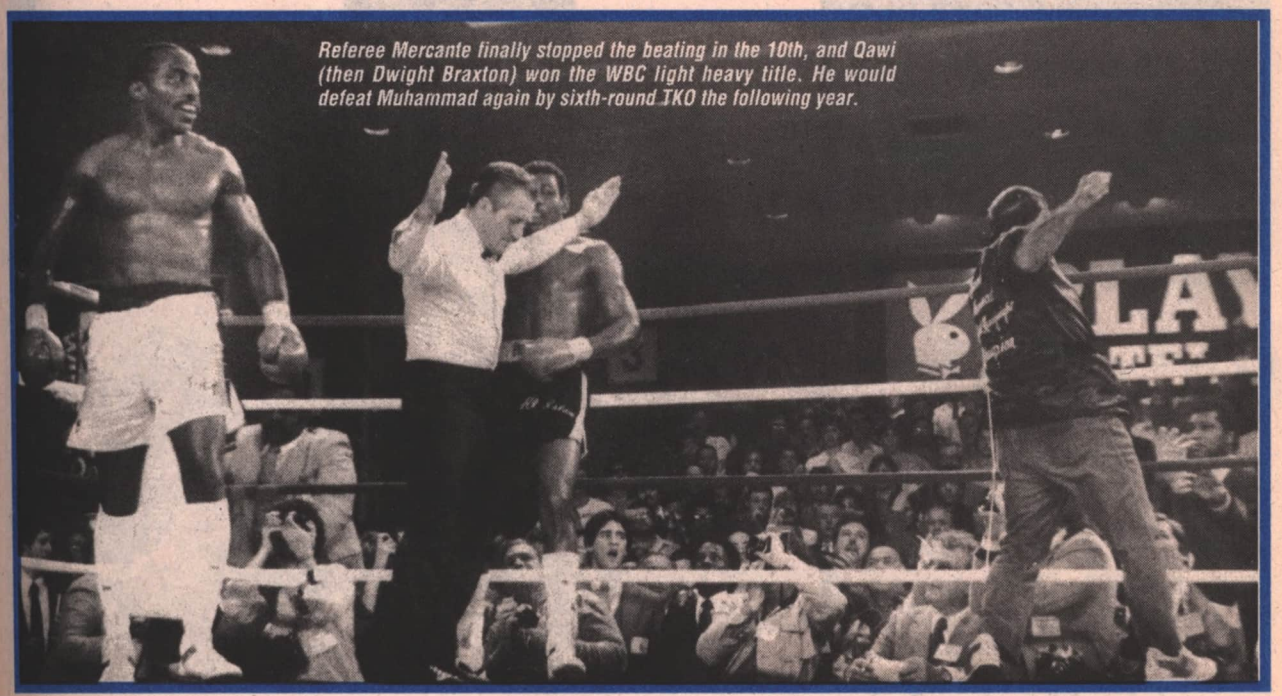
had a different view.

"I knew that the most important thing would be my conditioning because he would always keep coming back. So I put it in my head that I could go 30 rounds if I had to." Qawi, always in shape but hardly a Spartan, went the extra mile in anticipation of Muhammad's doggedness. "I had just beaten James Scott and stayed in the gym a lot. I even went away for three weeks prior to the fight to prepare and tighten up. My game plan was that I had to have a lot of stamina. As the fight approached, I visualized myself winning the title."

The plan proved to be the right one, as Qawi started fast, and never relented. When Muhammad tried to surge, Qawi wouldn't let him. "He was a sharp puncher, but he couldn't wear me down." As dominant as the challenger's performance was, however, the fight was not without its scary moments. "He hit me once in the middle rounds, and all of the sudden I saw the floor where the ceiling was supposed to be. But I came back because of my conditioning. That was the key."

After he won, the key was coming back down. "I was on a natural high. It was like, *I have arrived.* It was a euphoria that lasted for a while. It was overwhelming, emotionally. And then I thought, *Let me get back down to earth.*"

No sooner had the thought entered Qawi's mind than he received just the kind of reminder he had been seeking. "One guy, a friend of mine, had just bought a brand new Cadillac," he recalled. "The day after I won the title he said, 'Hey champ, why don't you take her for a ride?' So I did, and on the way back I stopped to get gas. As I was backing into the gas station, I ran right into one of those big steel poles they have. That brought me right back down to earth. That calmed me right down."



Referee Mercante finally stopped the beating in the 10th, and Qawi (then Dwight Braxton) won the WBC light heavy title. He would defeat Muhammad again by sixth-round TKO the following year.

CURTIS COKES

Opponent: Manuel Gonzalez

Title: WBA Welterweight

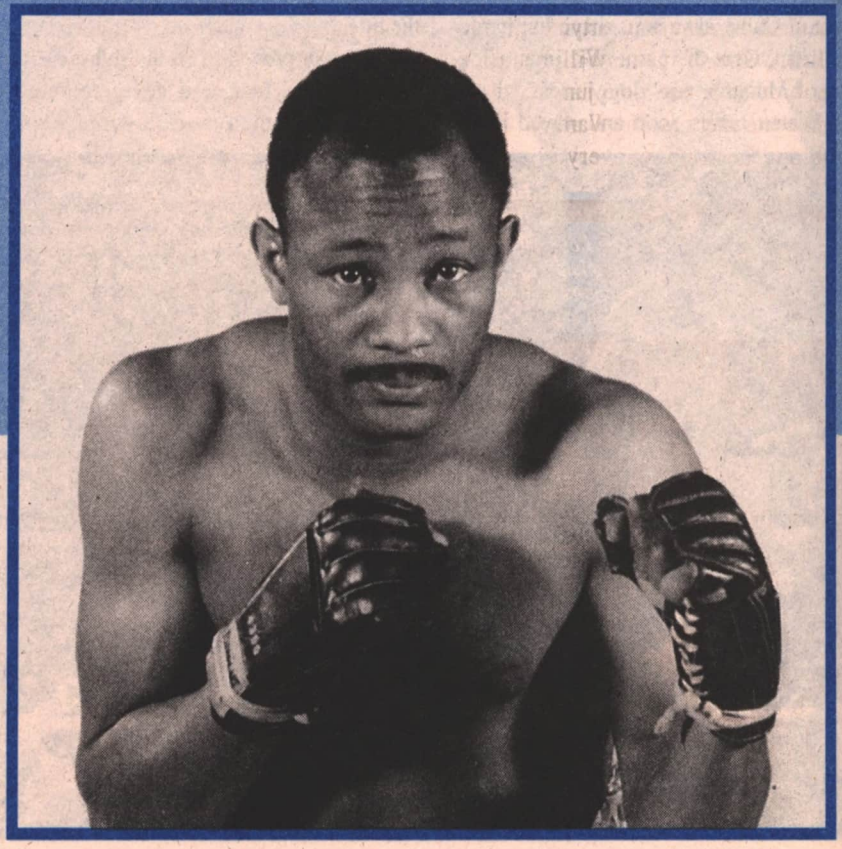
Date: August 24, 1966

Venue: Municipal Auditorium, New Orleans, Louisiana

Result: W 15

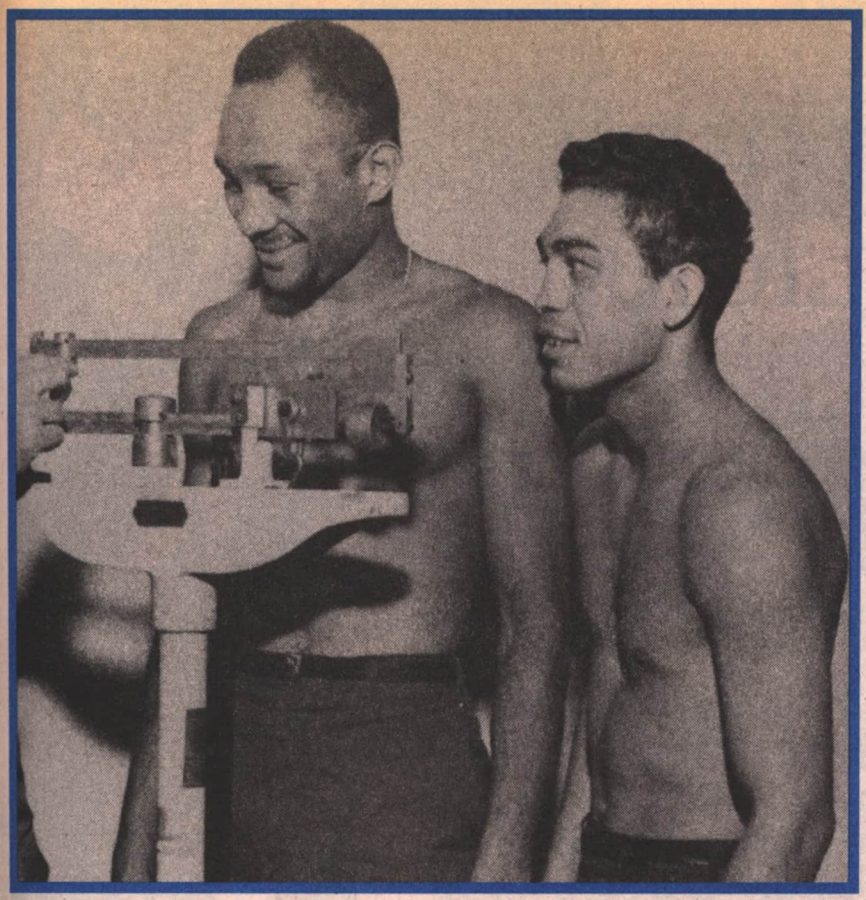
Referee: Pete Giarusso

Synopsis: Cokes earned a shot at the vacant title by pummeling Luis Rodriguez in an elimination bout, while Gonzalez' scheduled fight against Kitten Hayward was canceled, giving him a free spot in the title match. Cokes spent the first 11 rounds chasing after his dull, defensive-minded opponent, then finally caught up with him in the 12th and landed two right uppercuts and a right hook. Gonzalez went down as a result of the barrage, and Cokes controlled the remaining rounds to win the referee's 14-0-1 decision.



Though some fighters are known for their creativity when it comes to skirting the curfews mandated by their trainers, others are just as good—if a little less creative—at enforcing them. For Cokes, the training camp intended to prepare him for his first world title shot was no place for play. Even if it was located in one of the nation's biggest party towns.

"We were training in New Orleans, and some of my sparring partners were going



Cokes was all smiles at the weigh-in, but his strict training schedule indicates just how seriously he took his shot at the vacant WBA title. He refused to let himself or his sparring partners indulge in the wild New Orleans night life, as Willie Warren learned the hard way.

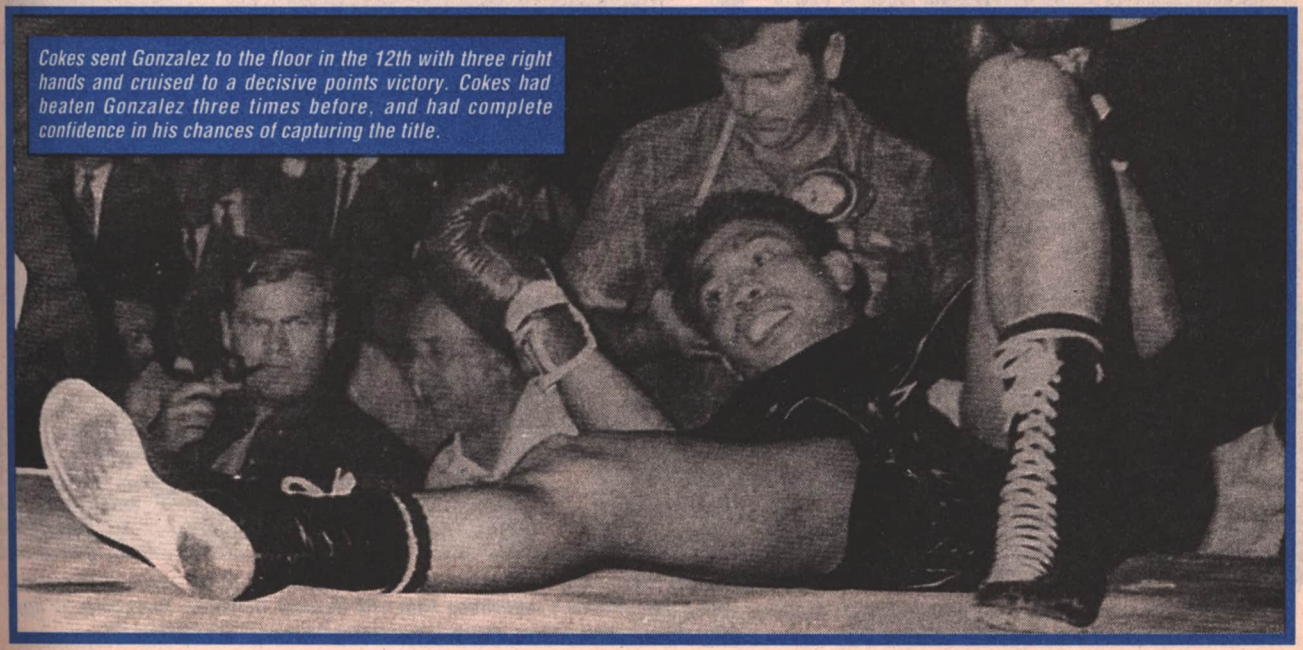
out at night drinking and partying," Cokes recalled. "One of them, Willie Warren [older brother of one-time junior welterweight contender Frankie Warren], would climb out the window every night and sneak out to go partying. Finally, one morning I got tired of it. The next time he came into the gym, I gave him a good shellacking in the ring and told him, 'If you're gonna stay out all night, you can't spar with me.' After that, he didn't go out again."

Warren must have shaped up in time to give Cokes the work he needed, because the fight itself went exactly as planned. "I felt all along like I would win the fight. I had beaten Gonzalez three times before. He was my first opponent as a pro. Since we had fought already, it was nothing new to me. It was just like working out in the gym."

The outcome was extra sweet for Cokes, who was angered by the Gonzalez camp's prefight demand that he shave off the beard he typically wore when fighting. "I always wore a beard. They tried to unnerve me before the fight by telling me I had to shave it off. I guess they thought I would refuse or something, but I was there to fight. I shaved it off and said, 'Let's go.'"

To the victor go the spoils. For Cokes, the spoils were of a four-wheeled variety. "I had promised my wife before the fight that if I lost, I would buy her a new Mustang. If I lost, that would be all I could afford. But I also told her that if I won, I'd buy her a brand new Oldsmobile Toronado. So the whole drive back to Dallas she kept pointing out every Toronado we passed, or even cars that looked like a Toronado. She kept bugging me, asking when we were going to get her Toronado."

Rest assured that Mrs. Cokes got her Toronado. ■



Cokes sent Gonzalez to the floor in the 12th with three right hands and cruised to a decisive points victory. Cokes had beaten Gonzalez three times before, and had complete confidence in his chances of capturing the title.

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Ray Bailey

IBF super middleweight champ Charles Brewer puts his arms around the daughters of two heavyweight legends, Jackie Frazier and Khaliah Ali. They're all smiles here, but word is that Brewer was standing between the ladies to prevent any possibility of a second generation superfight breaking out.

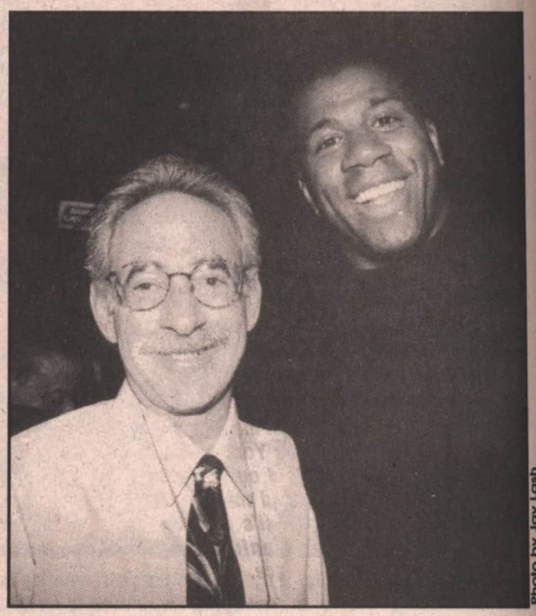


Photo by Jay Lash

Magic Johnson, posed with Nevada boxing commissioner Marc Ratner, is rumored to be looking into becoming a boxing promoter. Johnson would have little trouble relating to his fighters, since his "retirements" only last until his mood changes.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

This is an intentional headbutt, but nobody was hurt. Winnie Mandela and former champ Mike Tyson share a hug.

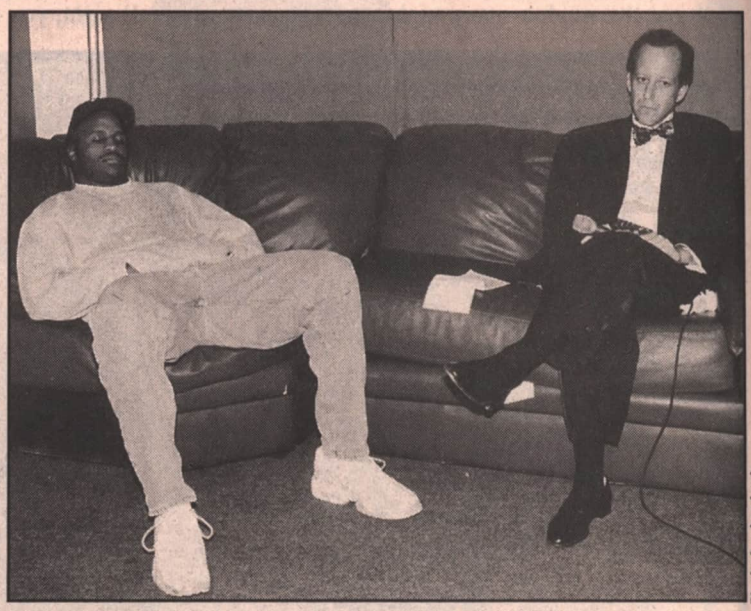


Photo by Jay Lash

Prefight excitement: Michael Moorer and Jim Gray can hardly control their enthusiasm before Moorer's unification bout with Evander Holyfield. Fortunately for fight fans, Moorer gave a more inspired performance against "The Real Deal."

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Naseem Hamed prepares to board his royal bus following the Times Square press conference where his alliance with HBO was announced. The axes weren't real, but, sadly, the men inside the costumes were.

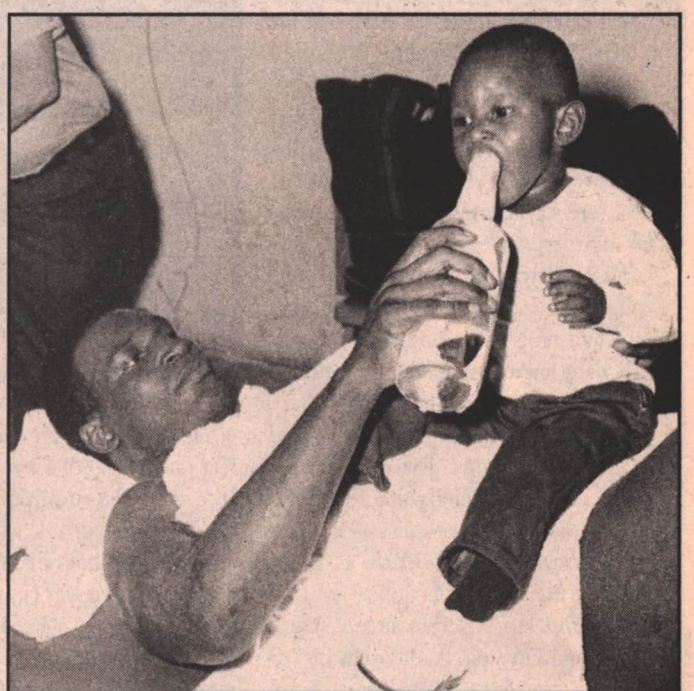
Photo by Marty Rosengarten

The round card girls at the November 1 fight card at New York's Apollo Theatre were decked out in everything from feathers and snakeskins to a bra made of fur. Let's hope there weren't too many animal rights activists in the audience.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Warrior spirit: Everyone in Evander Holyfield's camp has to keep in top shape, all the way down to the heavyweight champ's lawyer, Jim Thomas, seen laying into the heavybag.



A chip off the old "Bus": Heavyweight Buster Mathis Sr. lets future heavyweight Buster Mathis Jr. have a sip of his water in this photo from the early-'70s.

HERNANDEZ VS. HERNANDEZ

FRIENDSHIP ASIDE, THIS WAS A WAR!

By Ivan Goldman

If you think Hernandez vs. Hernandez sounds confusing, you should have seen the dressing room after the fight. Trainer Emanuel Steward, who'd been working Carlos "Famoso" Hernandez' corner, was carefully snipping the tape off the hands of the other guy, Genaro "Chicanito" Hernandez. Rudy Hernandez, Genaro's brother and chief trainer, was recounting the talent and determination shown by Carlos. The two Hernandez wives were schmoozing and making social plans together.

And the Hernandez fighters? They were tossing jokes back and forth, comparing bumps and bruises, trading compliments. There were lots of grizzled fight veterans in the crowded room who used to think they'd seen everything. But nobody had seen anything like this. These two camps were so mutually friendly and respectful that after the fight, everyone ended up in the same dressing room (Genaro's). It just seemed the natural thing to do.

Yet Hernandez vs. Hernandez, staged in the Grand Olympic Auditorium of Los Angeles, was a spirited battle between two guys who threw serious leather. They didn't for one moment let their friendship get in the way of the business at hand. In fact, at the end of 12 rounds, they looked like they'd fallen off the same roof. Genaro's left cheek was shaped like an avocado, and both his eyes were swollen. Carlos' left eye was cut and almost closed, and his right eye looked only slightly better. Also, a Genaro elbow had opened a wound in the back of Carlos' head that would require stitches. When Steward expertly removed the tape from the brittle hands of the 31-year-old Genaro, he found two sets of battered, bleeding knuckles.

"I just thank God we were not seriously hurt," Carlos said. "I know I fought a little dirty, coming in with my head … "

"We both used our heads," interrupted Genaro. "He's short. I'm tall. So it happens."

Referee Dave Nelson deducted a point from an exasperated Carlos in the ninth round for excessive use of his head, but the fighters were always able to separate ferocity from anger. After several of the rounds, they touched gloves. Once, they even embraced.

In the old days, good friends Rocky Graziano and Jake LaMotta used to discuss taking each other on, but they never got around to it. If they had fought, it could have been similar to Hernandez vs. Hernandez.

As for the outcome, it was no great surprise. WBC super featherweight champion Genaro Hernandez, surely one of the cleverest pugilists in the world, won a lopsided decision over the heavy-handed Carlos, whose record slipped to 25-2-1 (15), by scores of 120-107 and 119-108 (twice).

In the course of their careers, Genaro, 37-1-1 (17), and Carlos had sparred hundreds of times together, forging a brotherly bond through the unique intimacy of the ring. There was a danger in this matchup that the two friends would fall back into the mutual sparring rhythm they were so used to, thereby creating a boring respectfest. But when the opening bell sounded, Carlos rushed across the canvas as though running for a plane, and ripped a no-non-

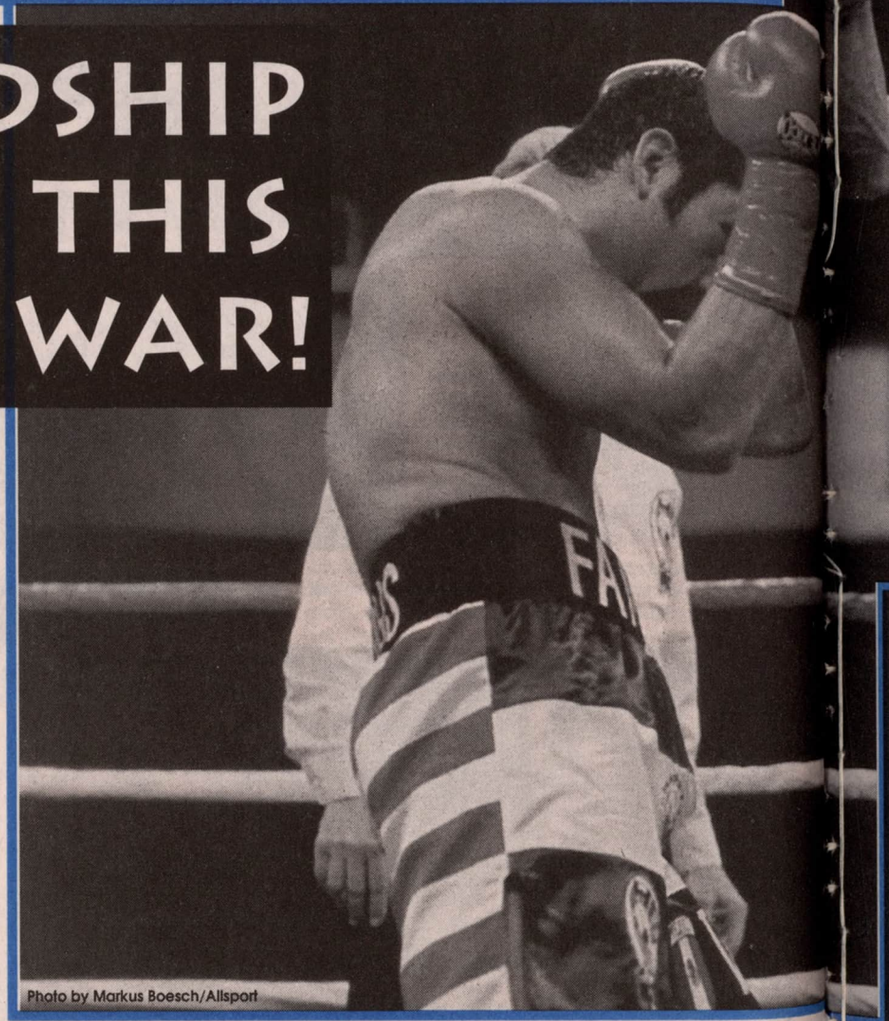
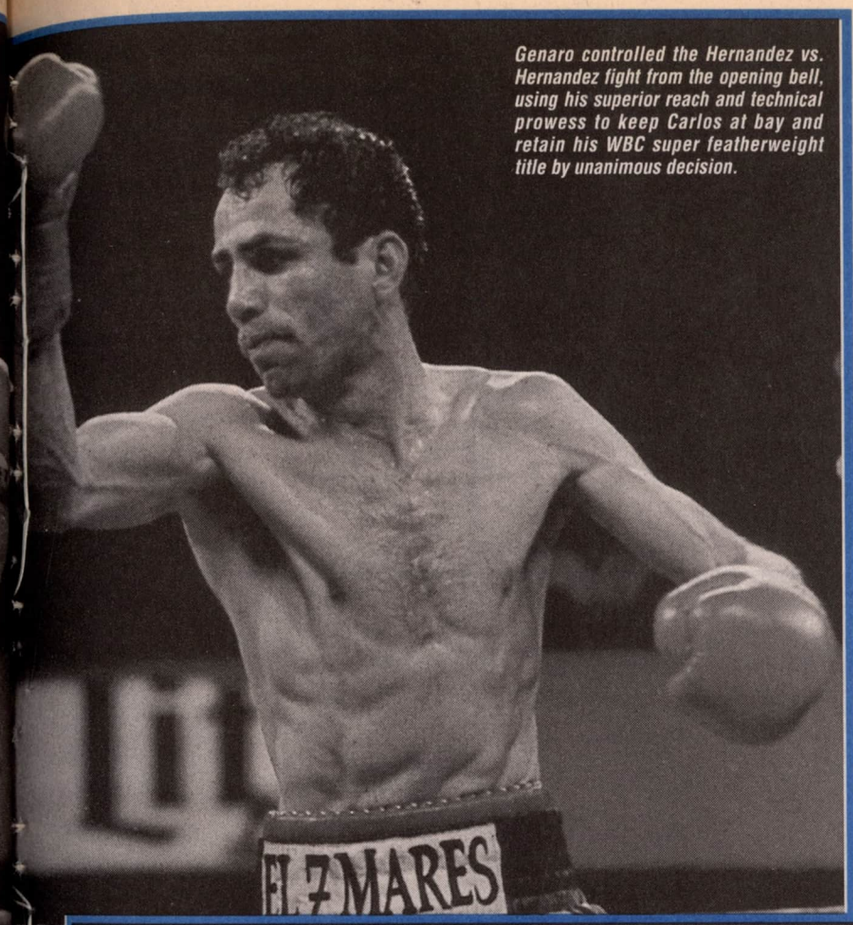
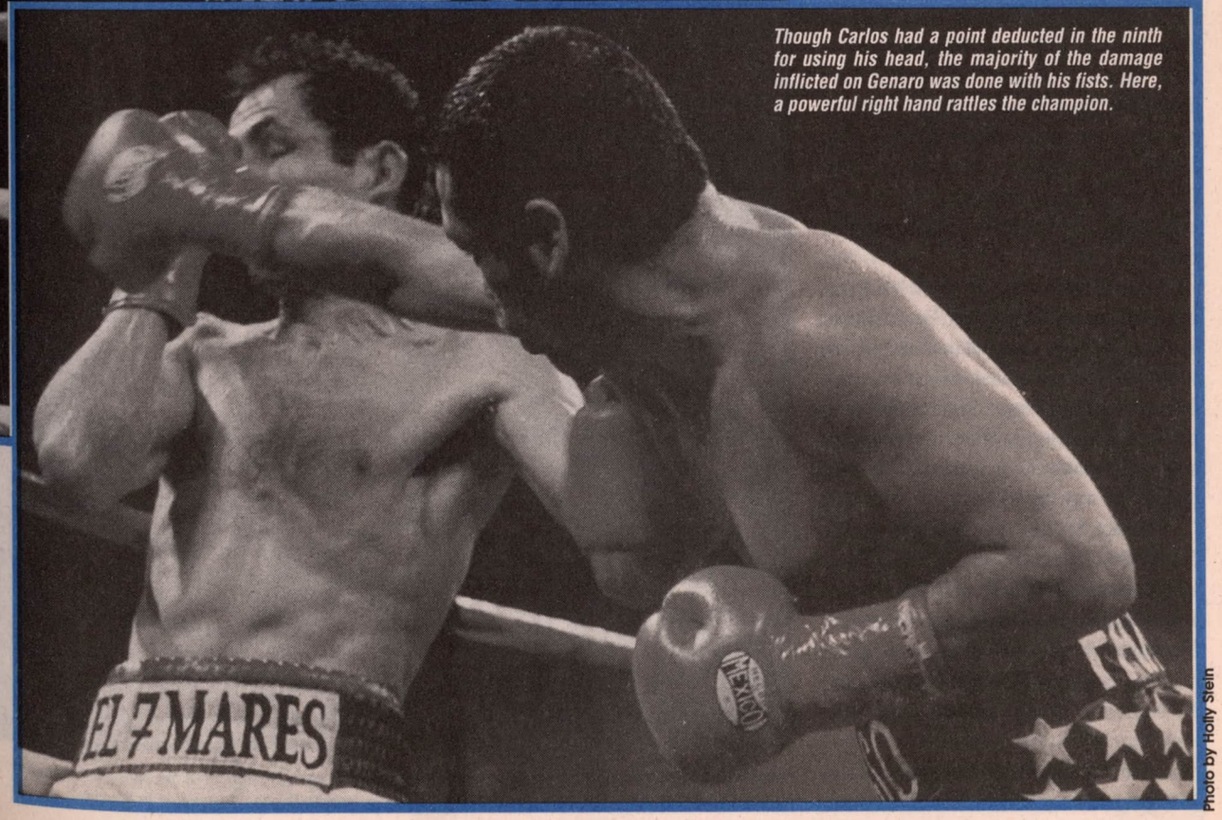


Photo by Markus Boesch/Allsport



Genaro controlled the Hernandez vs. Hernandez fight from the opening bell, using his superior reach and technical prowess to keep Carlos at bay and retain his WBC super featherweight title by unanimous decision.



Though Carlos had a point deducted in the ninth for using his head, the majority of the damage inflicted on Genaro was done with his fists. Here, a powerful right hand rattles the champion.

Photo by Holly Stein

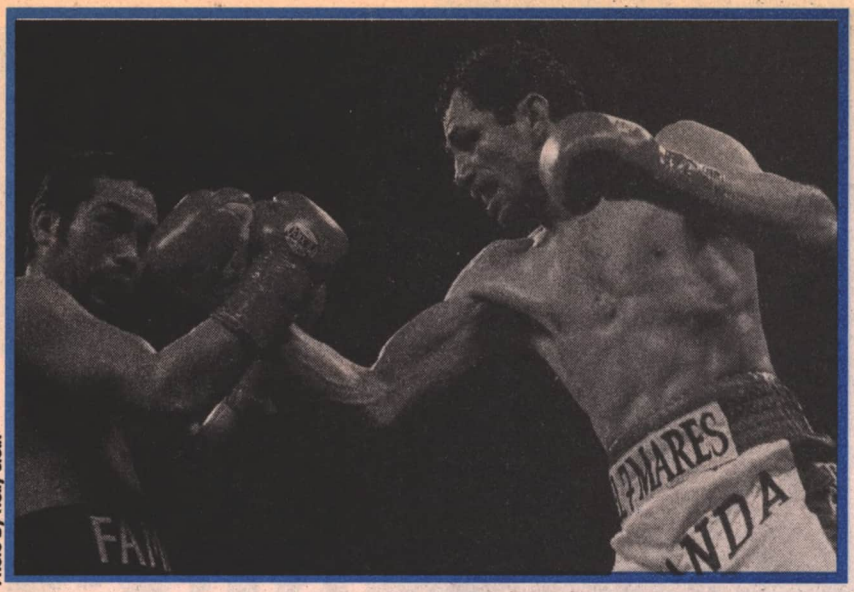


Photo by Holly Stein

Although "Chicanito" and "Famoso" are good friends and frequent sparring partners, neither man held anything back over the course of their 12-round battle. Carlos fought not only for himself, but for the pride of El Salvador as well, while Genaro represented the nation of Mexico.

sense combination at Genaro's midsection. Genaro, showing absolutely no surprise at the fierceness of his buddy, stepped to the side and tossed serious punches back. Notice was served. This would be no sparring match.

For reasons that elude rational explanation, the bout took place November 20 — on a Thursday night. Scheduling it for a Thursday "made no sense," Top Rank promoter Bob Arum conceded afterward. "But DIRECTV [a satellite TV company] put up the money for this, and they wanted to try a Thursday night. If it's not Saturday night, though, forget it."

The television rights were sold as part of a package with the Oscar De La Hoya-Wilfredo Rivera card scheduled for two weeks later, Arum added, which was supposed to explain everything. It didn't, but perhaps other multimillionaire promoters and broadcasters can understand why they operate the way they do.

The fact that the fight was not on free TV clearly helped boost the attendance, which was announced at 3,865 despite very little advertising. The historic Olympic, which has seen so many great matches between Hispanic fighters over the years, was, at least in some ways, a fitting venue. Although the place was repainted and furnished with a new roof in 1994, for Hernandez vs. Hernandez the Olympic was even beginning to smell like its old self again.

Underlying the contest was a spirited national rivalry. Carlos is of Salvadoran descent, and Genaro, as the nickname "Chicanito" announces, is of Mexican ancestry. Roberto Rajar, who helped market the fight to the Hispanic community, predicted a heavy pro-Carlos turnout because the neighborhood around the Olympic is now dominated by Central American immigrants. But fans of Mexican descent have been finding their way to the Olympic for generations, and the pro-Genaro fans were a clear majority.

Carlos, 26, has always been respectful of Mexico's heritage; his wife was born there. But he has often declared that his

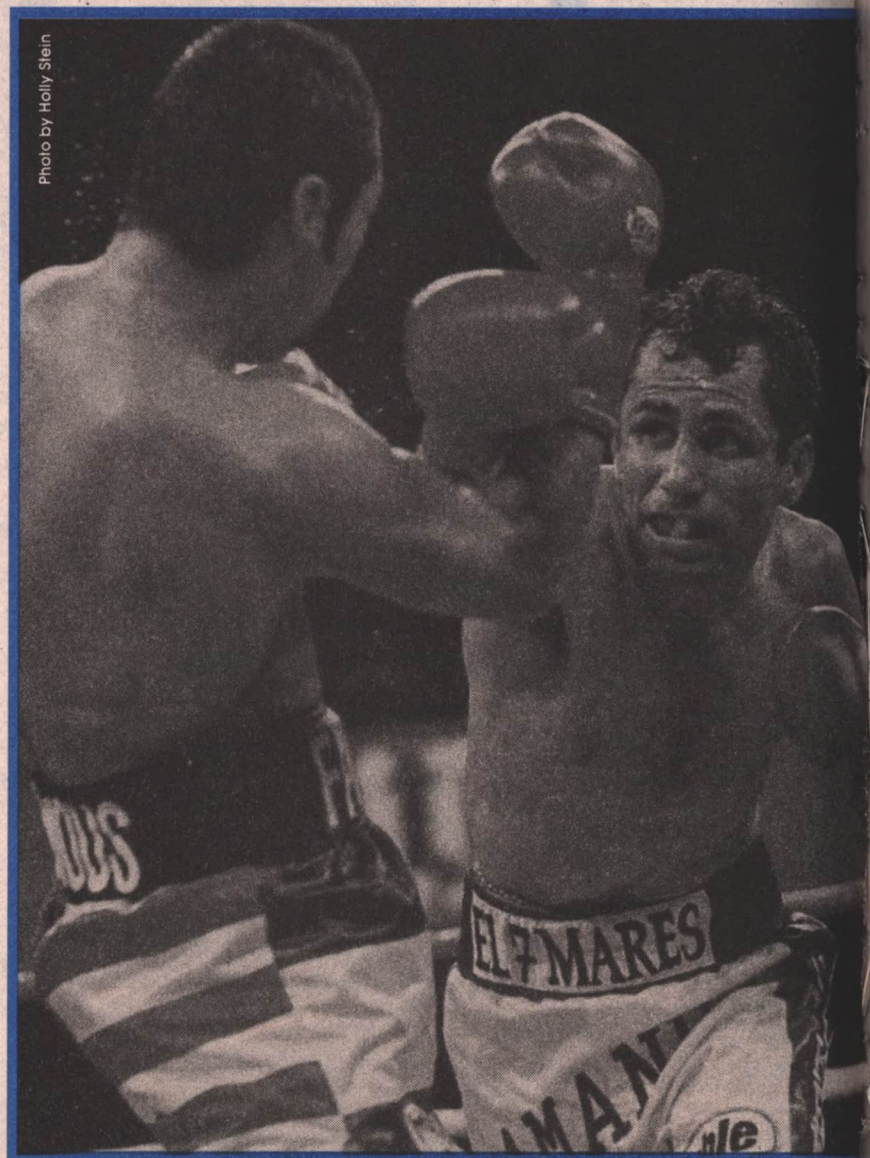


Photo by Holly Stein

Genaro was so dominant that Carlos admitted he was wondering in the middle of the fight what he could possibly do to hurt him. Emanuel Steward called Genaro "maybe the best technician in boxing."

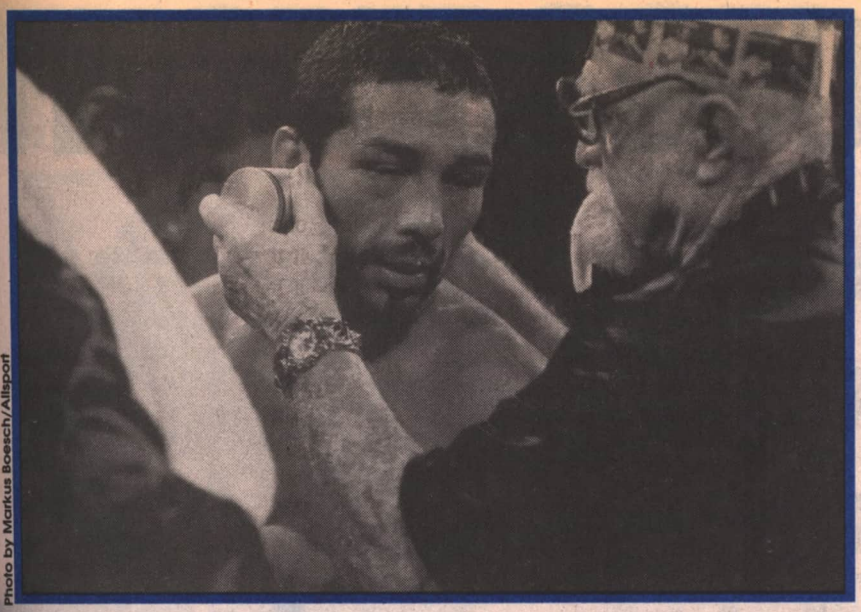


Photo by Markus Boesch/Allsport

After the fight, Chuck Bodak tended to the bumps and bruises that covered Carlos' face. The challenger clearly came out on the losing end of this friendly war.

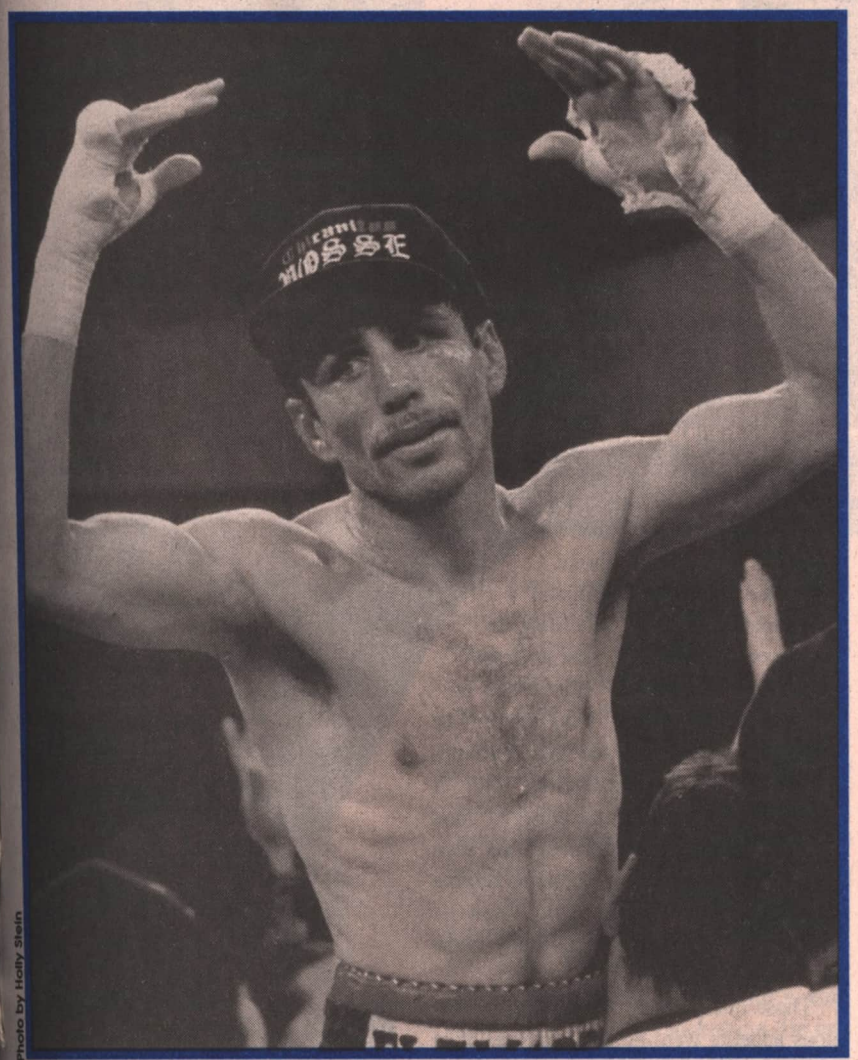


Photo by Holly Stein

Genaro remained arguably the top junior lightweight in the world, as he has never lost at 130 pounds. The Genaro camp hopes to fight IBF champion Arturo Gatti next, but that unification bout seems unlikely with Gatti looking to move up in weight.

dream is to become the first boxer of Salvadoran descent to win a world title. To the fans, this was reason enough to spark an ethnic rivalry, creating that extra jolt of crowd electricity that prompts fighters to reach beyond the norm. Everybody watched every punch, then shouted an opinion about it.

Genaro, 5'11", is famous as a 130-pounder who never has trouble making weight. Yet the durable champion is more like a tough strand of rawhide than a stringbean. His one loss came when he went up to 135 pounds to challenge Oscar De La Hoya in September '95. Because he stepped up five pounds for one fight, the WBA, which never seems to miss an opportunity, then stripped Genaro of his title—a title he had successfully defended eight times in more than three years.

Genaro, who always seems to throw the right punch at the right time, gave "The Golden Boy" one of his toughest outings ever. But after the sixth round, the ref stopped the fight when Genaro, his nose smashed, told him he couldn't continue. X-rays showed the nose had been broken in 22 places. Surgeons had to reconstruct it. Still, among some fans, Genaro was seen as a quitter, until he fought master technician Azumah Nelson in March '97 for the WBC belt. Fortune smiled on Genaro when Nelson struck him in the throat after the bell ended the seventh round. Ahead on points, Genaro could have quit and been awarded the title via disqualification. Instead, he elected to fight on, mastering "The Professor" with his fists instead of a rulebook.

Carlos is one of those world-class fighters who never seems to be in the right place when the promoters are handing out big purses. A head shorter than Genaro, Carlos' only chance was to get in close and bang. The challenger spent much of the fight with his head on Genaro's chest, pinning him to the ropes and tearing off big shots to the body and head.

But Genaro, an expert on the outside, can also work inside with anyone, and by the seventh round, a shaken Carlos started stepping back. He was a fighter who could find no answer to Genaro.

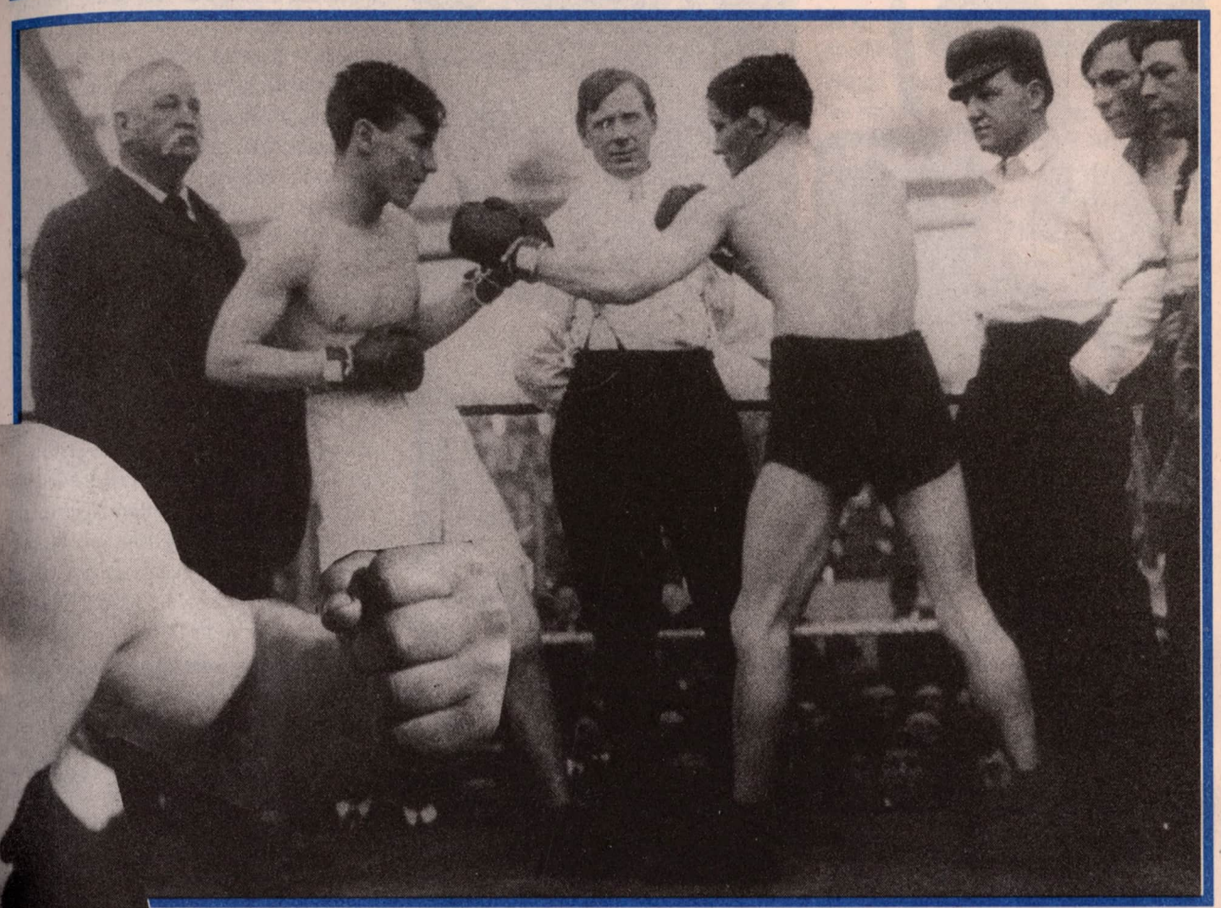
"Yeah, along about the seventh or eighth round," Carlos agreed, "I was wondering, *What can I do?*"

(Continued on page 74)

"CYCLONE" JOHNNY THOMPSON

The Secret Of The Lightweight Who Won The Middleweight Title

Johnny Thompson was one of the most feared lightweight fighters of the early-1900s. Legendary lightweight champions Joe Gans and Ad Wolgast avoided Thompson throughout their reigns.



Thompson's 1908 bout with Johnny Murphy (left) was such a bloodbath, lightweight Packey McFarland left his ringside seat in revulsion. The local sherrif stopped the slaughter in the eighth round to save Murphy from further punishment.

By Bill Shutte & Pete Ehrmann

When the Zealandia steamed away from Vancouver, British Columbia, on September 10, 1910, there was a collective sigh of relief from the lightweights "Cyclone" Johnny Thompson was leaving behind that was almost as audible as the departing blast of the ship's foghorn. The danger hanging over their heads was gone, at least for the duration of the tour of Australia being taken by the Illinois boxer whose whirlwind style accounted for both his nickname and the threat he posed to champions Oscar "Battling" Nelson and Ad Wolgast.

They didn't know it at the time, but the return of Cyclone Johnny six months later would be cause for a celebration. The man who had left as the most feared lightweight in the world would arrive back home a lightweight no more, but rather as the claimant of the middleweight championship of the world.

Then, in an upward spiral the likes of which wouldn't be seen in the ring again until the rise of Roberto Duran from a lightweight to a super-middleweight, Thompson within two more years would fight for the light heavyweight title and then compete as a full-fledged heavyweight before the curtain fell on one of the most remarkable and Hall of Fame-worthy careers in boxing history.

The lightweight limit was 133 pounds in those days, and the 5'4" Thompson was a man who could, according to one newspaper account, "eat an eight-pound roast at a sitting." But he was no overstuffed ball of suet. You couldn't be and fight non-stop for more than 20 rounds the way "The Sycamore Cyclone" did. "A young chap with stamina and grit" and "one of the toughest propositions seen here," a Milwaukee, Wisconsin, boxing writer wrote of Thompson when he appeared there as a preliminary boy in the early days of his career.

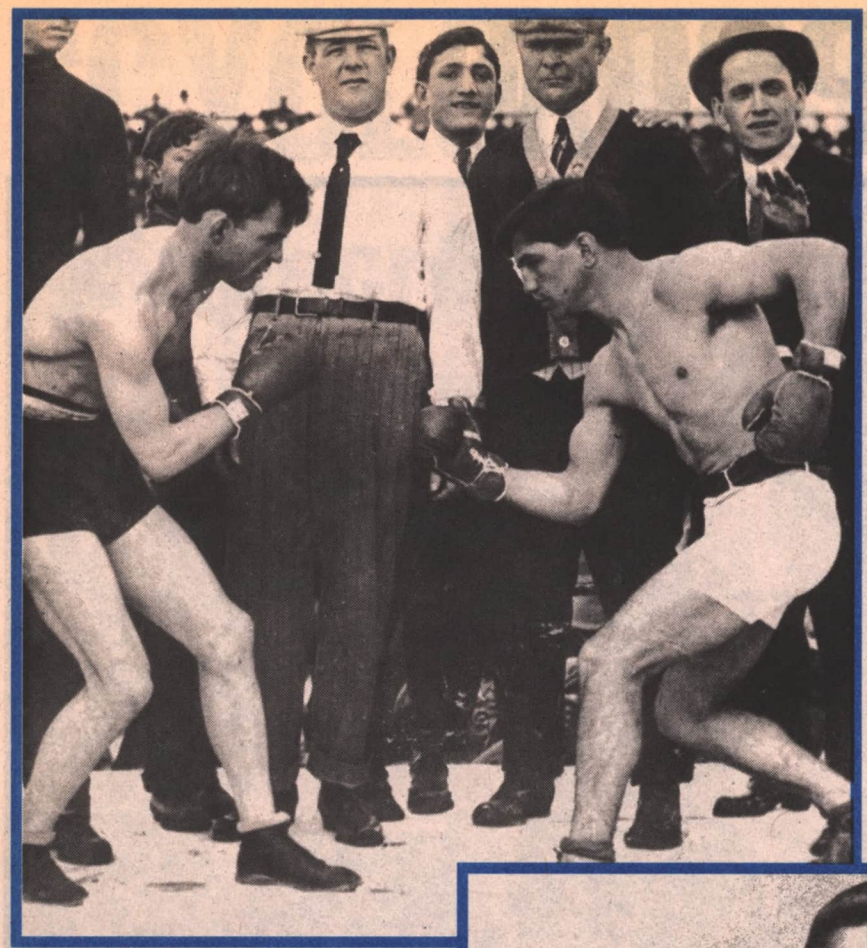
Those qualities and Thompson's prodigious appetite were no doubt the result of the hard labor Thompson had performed since his father, a Danish emigrant to Ogle County, Illinois, yanked him out of the fourth grade and put him to work on the family farm. Farming is what steered young Thompson to the ring.

"I started to fight when I was 18, and it was because of the dollar that I took it on," he explained once. "Hired labor cost $20 a month, and I could earn half of that for half-an-hour's fight. That meant two weeks hired laborer's pay. So I went in for the game."

In over 200 bouts that followed, the fighter a hometown newspaper headline once called Sycamore's "Greatest Man," proved himself one of the ring's, too. Thompson was never knocked out. He was floored and stopped only once. That was by Milwaukee's own lightweight dervish, Charles Neary, in 1903. But while conceding the knockdown against him, Thompson maintained that the fight was stopped only because a towel was tossed in by a second who had a bet down on Neary.

The Cyclone hit the national boxing map when he headed west in 1906. Thompson twice beat lightweight contender "Fighting" Dick Hyland, and after he lost on a foul to Lew Powell in San Francisco, a local newspaper proclaimed that "his showing last night proved [Thompson] to be a strong, aggressive boy who would just as soon take a few punches in the jaw as an ordinary man would a sandwich."

When asked what made him so different from the other famed iron men of his time who, despite their reputations, occa-



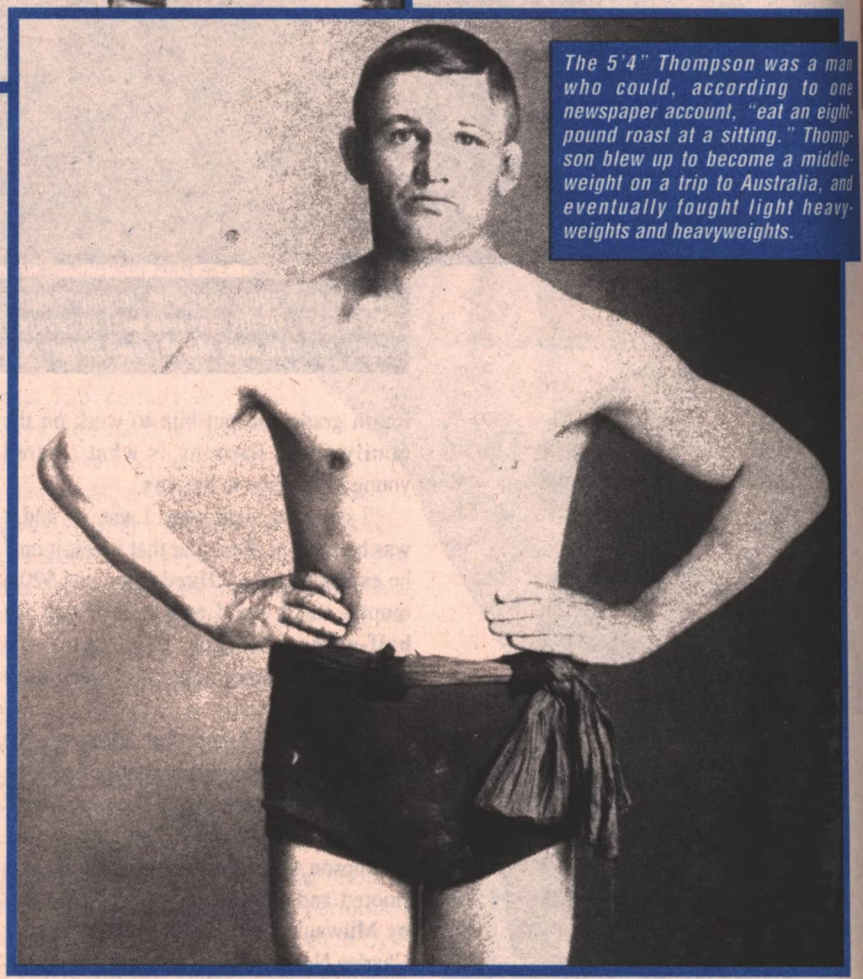
Wolgast (right) and Nelson square off prior to their 1910 bout won by Wolgast via 40th-round TKO. Although Nelson won a couple of non-title bouts with "Cyclone Johnny," he never gave Thompson a crack at the title.

sionally bit the dust, the always-modest Thompson said his stolid perpendicularity was even a puzzle to him.

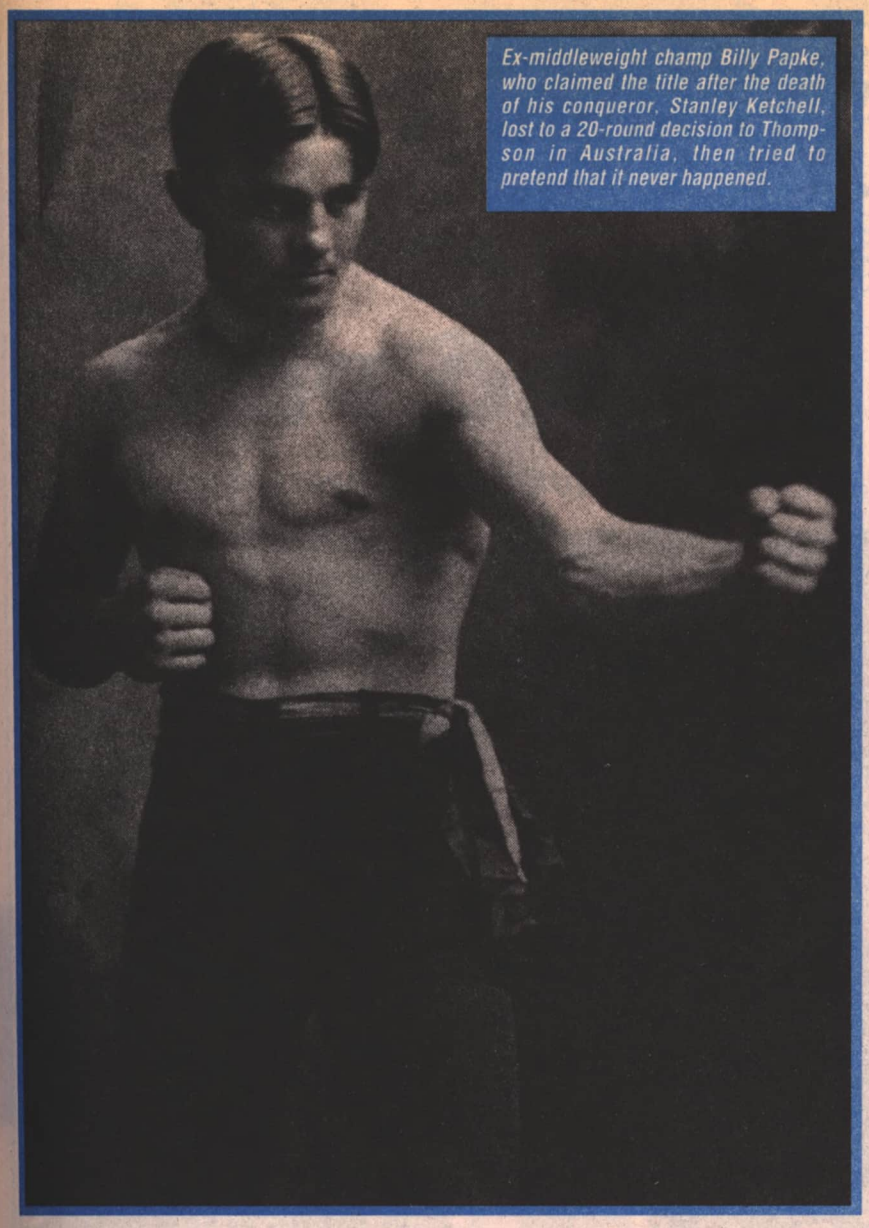
"I don't know how it is, but nobody seems to have been able to find the right spot to hit hard enough," he said. "The spot is there, though. I have the usual tender point. The nerve is there, I know it. I have seen stars and heard bells jingle like other fighters. Yet I have escaped the count ... I have always been a clean liver, and I have always entered the ring well and fit."

By the start of 1907, the Illinois whirlwind—introduced for his fight with Rufe Turner in February as "the hardest nut in the world to crack"—was being acclaimed as "the only man who stands a show with [lightweight champion] Joe Gans." He and "The Old Master" never did meet, and the next year Gans lost his crown to the man who would become the original poster boy for face-first, smash-mouth, hell-for-leather prize fighting. According to Battling Nelson, scientific medical examination had determined that his cranium was much thicker than that of the ordinary human being, and thus was virtually invulnerable to a punch. Nelson and Thompson were not strangers to one another. They had fought twice in Midwestern preliminary bouts, with Nelson coming away both times with decision victories and a strong aversion to testing his cranial theory against Thompson again.

Thompson's fights were not for the squeamish, that's for sure. Johnny Murphy was considered a comer on the West Coast, but it was clear after the first round of his fight against Thompson on March 14, 1908, that he would be a goner. By the second round of the match, described as "the bloodiest fighting seen on the Pacific Coast in years," even fellow lightweight contender Packey McFarland was blanching at the violence. "I can't stand anything like this," he announced, vacating his ringside seat for the back of promoter Jim



The 5'4" Thompson was a man who could, according to one newspaper account, "eat an eight-pound roast at a sitting." Thompson blew up to become a middleweight on a trip to Australia, and eventually fought light heavyweights and heavyweights.



Ex-middleweight champ Billy Papke, who claimed the title after the death of his conqueror, Stanley Ketchell, lost to a 20-round decision to Thompson in Australia, then tried to pretend that it never happened.

Coffroth's Mission Street Arena in San Francisco. The sheriff halted matters in round eight, thus probably saving Murphy "from appearing in the title role at a coroner's inquest," according to the *San Francisco Call.*

Charles "Kid" Dalton was both a friend and a sparring partner of Nelson's, and retired heavyweight champion Jim Jeffries agreed with the lightweight champion that Dalton was almost as impregnable as Nelson himself. In any case, said Dalton, who was knocked out twice by the Sycamore Cyclone in 1908, Nelson was in for heavy weather if they ever met again. "I believe that if Battling Nelson and Johnny Thompson ever meet, that Thompson will beat him at every stage of the game," said Dalton.

Knocked out again by Nelson in their third fight, Gans joined that growing chorus. Thompson's "great endurance and ability to rough it were fully equal," Gans said, to the man they called the "Durable Dane."

But proving it against Nelson or any of the other top 133-pounders was a problem for Thompson. "I will be only too pleased to match Thompson if I can get him on with a top-notcher," telegrammed Coffroth to Larney Lichtenstein, Thompson's manager, on August 8, 1908. "The trouble with Thompson is that most of the chaps in his class are afraid of him."

At first, Cyclone Johnny took Nelson's reluctance to fight with typical good nature. "If he won't fight me, I'll run him, wrestle him, or play quoits [a popular card game of the time]. I'll even take him on at his favorite game of writing, give him a volume start, and beat him easy," said Thompson. The latter was a reference to Nelson's breathlessly awaited autobiography. When gently ribbing got him nowhere, Thompson tried appealing to Nelson's bank account. He offered Nelson the whole purse for a fight, then added that he would throw in $5,000 if Nelson could stop him in 45 rounds. The offer was met with silence, so Thompson turned up the volume. "The first time I see Battling Nelson, no matter where it is, I'm going to fight him and whip him," he threatened. While the champion remained mum, presumably he felt the same way about Thompson as other fighters who already suffered at his hands.

"[Thompson] is too rough and tough for me," said Freddy Welsh, the future lightweight champion who had escaped with a six-round draw against Thompson in 1907. "There are easier ones than this fellow. I know what he can do, for I had a taste of his game in Philadelphia not so long ago, and do not care for any more of it. Let him tackle some of the rough ones."

A picture of a young Cyclone Johnny—clear-eyed and handsome. After 200 fights, boxing took its toll on Thompson.

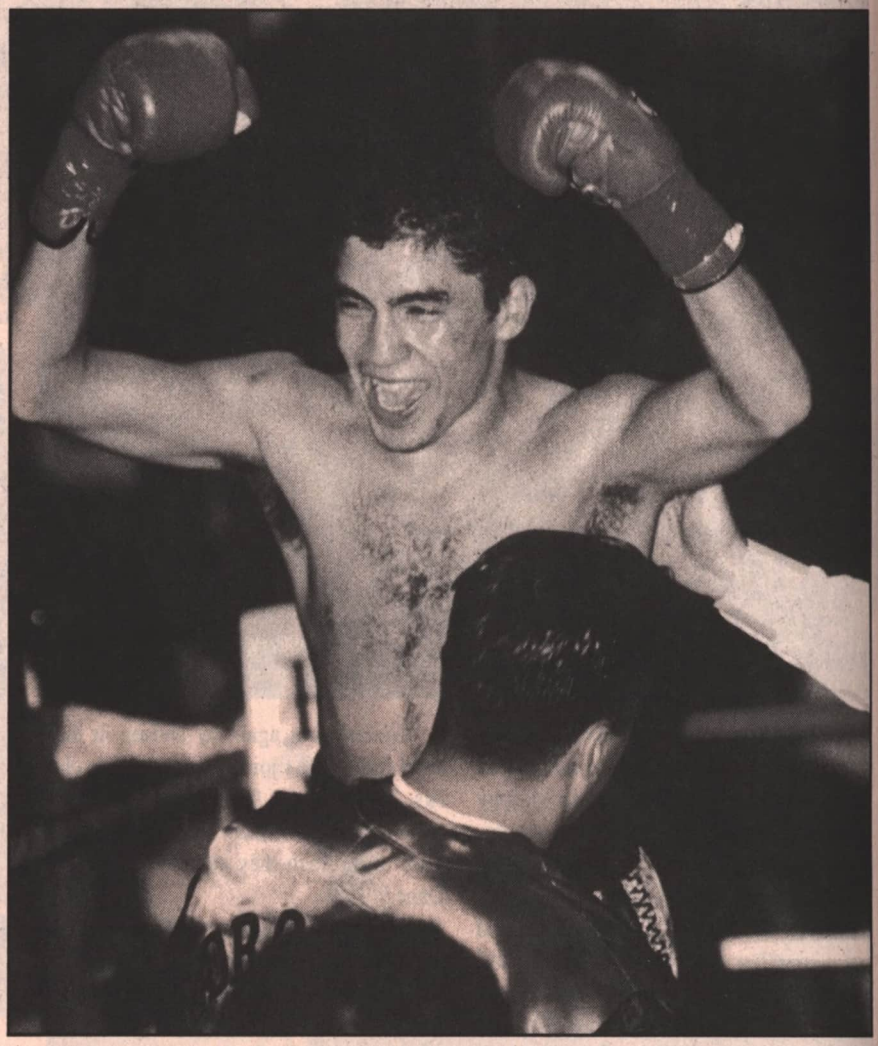
Finally, Nelson had a brainstorm. As he was also being beleaguered for a match by Packey McFarland, he suggested that McFarland and Thompson square off for the right to fight him for the title. McFarland was one of the classiest boxers

(Continued on page 70)

NEW FACES

PEDRO PENA

Junior Bantamweight



By Robert Cassidy

Pedro Pena never had a chance. Although he was drawn to playing soccer as a youth, he was destined to be a fighter. His father, Roberto Garcia, was a tough junior lightweight who barnstormed Mexico and the Left Coast of the United States fighting everyone and anyone from 1978 until 1985. He met the likes of Julio Cesar Chavez, Bobby Chacon, Ruben Castillo, Edwin Rosario, and Roger Mayweather.

When Pena was a child, his home was submerged in the Sweet Science. His

(Continued on page 72)

PRO RECORD

996		
Nov. 1	David Avila, Irvine, CA	KO 2
Dec. 12	Miguel Juarez, Chula Vista, CA	KO 2
1997		
Jan. 31	Humberto Melendez, Irvine	KO 1
March 8	Armando Torres, Albuquerque	KO 1
March 28	Joey Garcia, Irvine	W 4
May 18	Aureo Dominguez, Indio, CA	KO 4
June 14	Ruben Contrerez, Phoenix	W 4
Aug. 16	Javier Mesa, Los Alamitos, CA	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
8	8	0	0	6

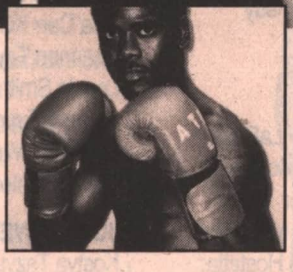
SUPER SUMMER SALE

LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER SAFETY SPARRING HEADGEAR

- Heavy Duty Padding
- Easily Adjustable to any size

style	reg price	SALE
3142	~~$42.00~~	$29
3143	~~$52.00~~	$39
3147	~~$69.00~~	$45

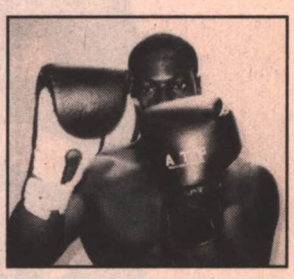


GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER HOOK & LOOP TRAINING & SPARING GLOVES

- Heavy Duty Lining
- Easily Adjustable to any size
- 2" Multilayered padding

#3080 One Pair/Red or Black

size	reg price	SALE
12 oz.	~~$114.50~~	$69
14 oz.	~~$119.50~~	$75
16 oz.	~~$124.50~~	$89
18 oz.	~~$129.50~~	$95

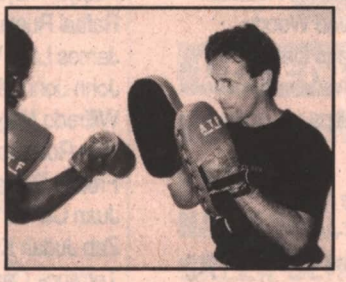


GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER SUPER PRO BAG GLOVES

- Hoop & loop closure
- Extra wrist support

#3125 Black with white palm

size	reg price	SALE
10 oz.	~~$44.95~~	$34
12 oz.	~~$49.95~~	$39



GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER PUNCH MITTS

- Heavy duty strap prevents slipping
- Triple nylon stitching
- Shock absorbing & lightweight

#3135 One Pair/Red or Black

reg price	SALE
~~$44.00~~	$29

GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER LACED UP TRAINING & SPARRING GLOVES

- Comfortable & Heavy Duty
- 2" Multilayered padding

#3040 One Pair/Red or Black

size	reg price	SALE
12 oz.	~~$107.95~~	$79
14 oz.	~~$112.95~~	$84
16 oz.	~~$117.95~~	$89
18 oz.	~~$120.95~~	$94

GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER HEAVY BAG

- Comes with chains & swivel

size	reg price	SALE
#75	~~$140.00~~	$99
#90	~~$179.00~~	$145
#150	~~$259.00~~	$235
#155	~~$299.00~~	$265

Heavy Bags also available in canvas

GENUINE COWHIDE LEATHER NO FOUL PROTECTOR

#3136 Red or Black

reg price	SALE
~~$59.00~~	$39

"TRAIN LIKE A CHAMP!"

SAMEDCO

CALL NOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

1-800-989-7510

(212) 244-7510

We accept Mastercard, Visa & American Express, Check & Money Orders for all product orders. Please call for shipping charges. Mail orders to: SAMEDCO 53 West 36th Street, 4th Floor, NY, NY 10018

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Evander Holyfield KO 8 Michael Moorer
(Retains WBA Title, Wins IBF Title)
Shannon Briggs W 12 George Foreman
David Tua KO 2 Jeff Lally
Corrie Sanders W 12 Ross Puritty
Michael Grant KO 1 Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Hasim Rahman KO 1 Tui Toia
Gerald Nobles KO 5 Gregory Pickrom
Darroll Wilson KO 2 James Pritchard
Vaughn Bean KO 1 Bryant Smith
Larry Donald KO 5 Ricardo Kennedy
Ed Mahone KO 5 Eric Curry
Greg Page KO 1 James Holley
Ahmad Abdin W 10 Ray Anis
Courage Tshabalala KO 4 Tony LaRosa
Lawrence Clay-Bey W 8 Louis Monaco
Lamon Brewster W 8 John Kiser
Duncan Dokiwari KO 1 Michael Middleton
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Charles Hostetter
Lionel Butler KO 9 Cleveland Woods
Monte Barrett KO 2 Santiago DePaul
Kevin McBride KO 1 Yuri Yelistratov
Butterbean W 4 Doug Phillips

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Nate Miller
(Wins WBA Title)
Imamu Mayfield W 12 Uriah Grant
(Wins IBF Title)
Vassiliy Jirov KO 2 Art Jimmerson
Dale Brown W Disq. 6 Robert Folley

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Will Taylor KO 6 Ernest Mateen
Antonio Tarver KO 2 Roy Francis

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Charles Brewer W 12 Joey DeGrandis
(Retains IBF Title)
Herol Graham W 12 Vinny Pazienza
Mads Larsen KO 7 Soon Botes
Frederic Alvarez KO 2 Luciano Torres
Eric Lucas W 10 Kevin Pompey
Roberto Duran W 8 Dave Radford
Omar Sheika W 8 Demetrius Davis
Omar Sheika KO 2 Maurice Bruton

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins W 12 Andrew Council
(Retains IBF Title)
Keith Holmes KO 11 Paul Vaden
(Retains WBC Title)
Anthony Andrews KO 9 David Mendez
Alex Hilton W 10 Joey Stevenson

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Keith Mullings KO 9 Terry Norris
(Wins WBC Title)
Yory Boy Campas KO 8 Raul Marquez
(Wins IBF Title)
Floyd Weaver D 12 Fidel Avendano
Samuel Serrano W 10 Anthony Ivory
David Reid KO 5 Dan Connolly
Rhoshii Wells W 4 Leigh Wicks
Rodney Jones KO 1 Craig Kikta

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 8 Wilfredo Rivera
(Retains WBC Title)
Vernon Forrest W 12 Ray Oliveira
Alessandro Duran W 12 Peter Malinga
Oba Carr KO 5 Jesus Rodriguez
Shannon Taylor KO 3 Carlos Malaga
Lonnie Smith KO 2 Francisco Barra
Sammy Fuentes D 10 Antonio Rivera
Fernando Vargas KO 1 Jose Fernandez
Daniel Santos KO 3 Jerry Booker

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Kostya Tszyu KO 3 Ismael Chaves
Rafael Ruelas KO 7 Rodney Wilson
James Leija W 10 Effie Schneider
John-John Molina W 10 Moses James
Wilfredo Negron KO 7 Juan Soberanes
Ivan Robinson W 10 Desi Ford
Freddy Rojas W 10 Gilberto Flores
Juan Carlos Villarreal D 12 Ricardo Silva
Zab Judah KO 1 Ricardo Vasquez
Terrance Cauthen W 6 Anthony Campbell
Hector Quiroz KO 4 Elias Cruz
Lucia Rijker KO 3 Jeanette Witte

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley KO 11 Manuel Gomez
(Retains IBF Title)
Israel Cardona W 10 David Sample
Billy Schwer KO 10 Oscar Garcia Cano
Joel Perez Tech. Draw 1 Cesar Bazan

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Genaro Hernandez W 12 Carlos Hernandez
(Retains WBC Title)
Floyd Mayweather KO 3 Angelo Nunez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vazquez W 12 Genaro Rios
(Retains WBA Title)

Cesar Soto KO 6 Sean Fletcher
Juan Manuel Marquez W 12 Alfred Kotey
Steve Robinson KO 7 Alric Johnson
Oscar Maldonado KO 3 Baudilio Hernandez
Carlos Navarro KO 8 Carlos Valdez
Pastor Maurin W 10 Amador Vasquez
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 8
Mauricio Martinez
Zahir Raheem KO 4 Terry Smith

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Arnel Barotillo
(Retains IBF Title)
Danny Romero KO 5 Roberto Lopez
Cassius Baloyi KO 7 Laszlo Bognar
Juan Manuel Chavez W 12 Nicky Bentz
Jesus Salud KO 2 Sairoong Suwannaslip
Carlos Navarro KO 4 Hector Santana
Michael Brodie KO 4 Wilson Docherty
Narcisco Rodriguez KO 5 Lionel Odom

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Joichiro Tatsuyoshi KO 7
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk
(Regains WBC Title)
John Michael Johnson KO 6 Richard Dinkins
Paul Lloyd W 12 Francis Ampofo
Fabrice Benichou KO 7 Valentine Dimitru
Oscar Garro KO 5 Fabian Moreno

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Yoshiaki Matsukura KO 7 Akira Taiga
Victor Godoy KO 4 Jorge Calfin
Pedro Rincon KO 8 Rafael Sosa

FLYWEIGHTS

Chatchai Dutchboy Gym W 12
Yuri Arbachakov
(Wins WBC Title)
Jose Bonilla KO 6 Keiji Yamaguchi
(Retains WBA Title)
Sammy Stewart KO 8 Isidro Garcia
David Guerault KO 4 Adey Lewis
David Guerault KO 5 Bela Sandor
Jose Lopez KO Fernado Valencia
Alejandro Montiel W 12 Lalo Garcia
Jesper Jensen KO 1 Mzukisi Marali

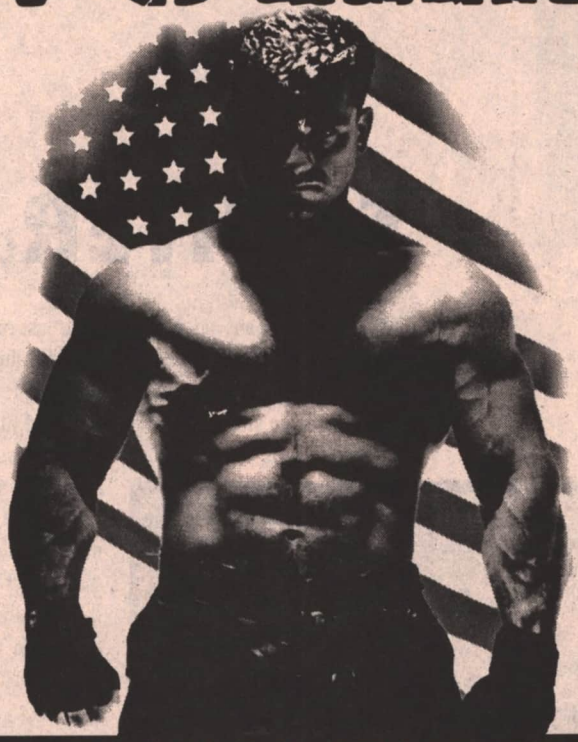
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Baby Jake Matlala KO 12 Luis Doria
Carlos Murillo KO 7 Roger Vasquez
Alberto Guardardo W 4 Jose Ortiz

STRAWWEIGHT

Jose Antonio Aguirre W 12 Lorenzo Trejo
Fernando Luna Velez KO 12
Gustavo Andrade

USA VS WORLD



DEFENDING THE GLORY OF AMERICA

ELITE HEROES FROM:		TOP COMMANDOS FROM:
NAVY SEALs	VS	ASIA
GREEN BERETS		RUSSIA
MARINE RECONS		EUROPE
AIR FORCE		MID EAST

SAT. JAN. 31st 9PM ET / 6PM PT

LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW

☆ TO ORDER CALL ☆

YOUR CABLE OR SATELLITE PROVIDER

ALSO AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING MILITARY BASES

SUPPORT YOUR MWR FUND RAISING EFFORTS

Eleven explosive boxing fights with rules developed exclusively for commandos by Hall of Fame boxing legend EDDIE FUTCH to ensure a level of intensity rarely seen in the ring, to be enforced by the honorable and renowned boxing referee MILLS LANE.

www.USAvsWORLD.com

A Presentation of Universal Warriors Inc.

Fighters subject to Change NR

RINGSIDE REPORTS

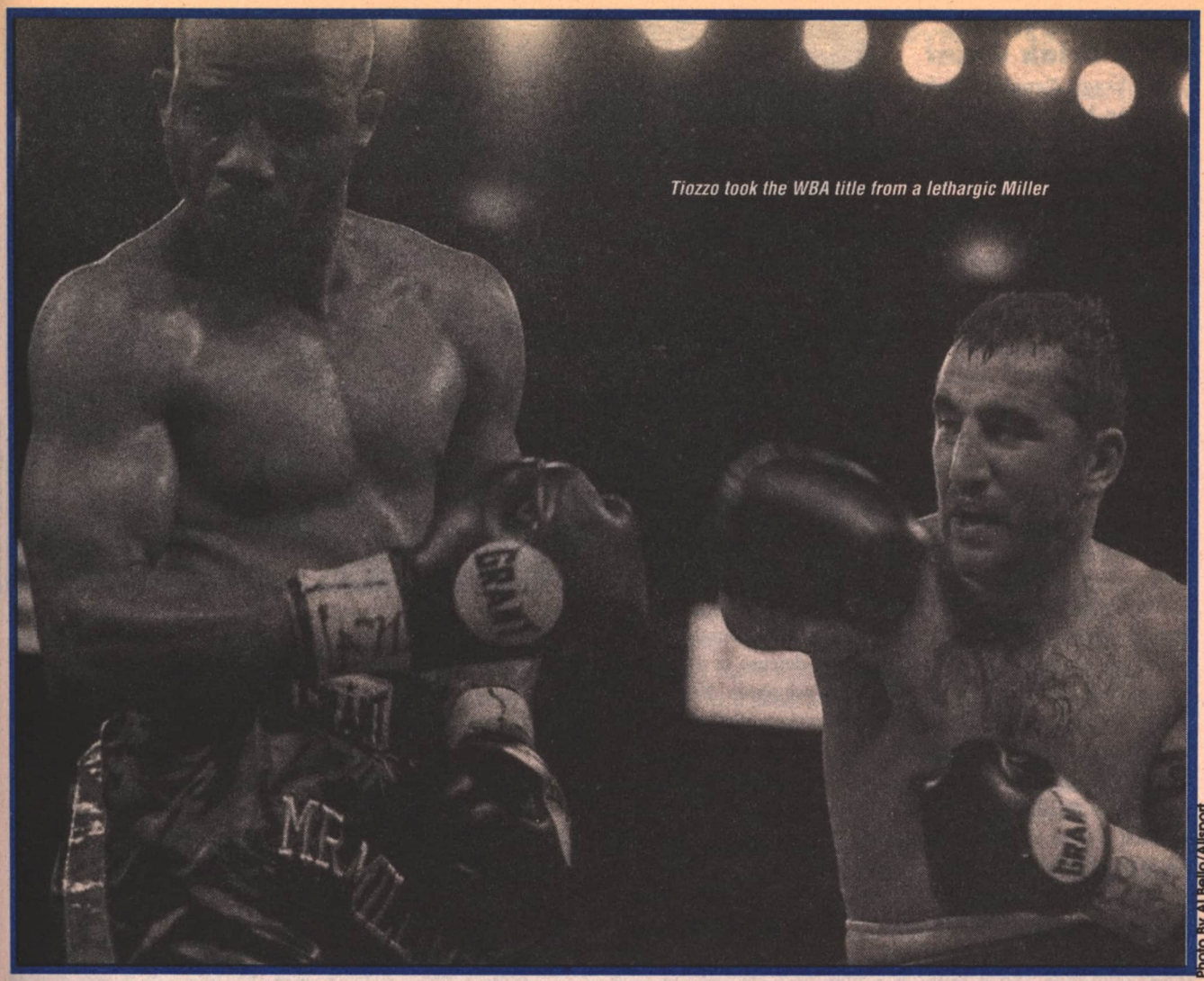
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

If there were any doubters left, the last of them have been erased. The washed-up, blown-up cruiserweight with the weak heart wiped out the only remaining unavenged loss on his record, and did so in a bout that perfectly captured his skill, ferocity, intelligence, and, most prominently, willpower.

In the same situation in which Mike Tyson found himself five months earlier— badly cut above the eye and trailing on points in the early going—Holyfield turned not to desperation tactics, but rather to determination tactics, rallying to defeat Michael Moorer via eighth-round TKO. "The Real Deal" became gradually more aggressive as the fight wore on, knocking Moorer down in a fifth round, a session that Holyfield was on his way to losing, and flooring Moorer twice more in the seventh to blow the scoring wide open. The two knockdowns in the eighth were exclamation points on Holyfield's compelling proclamation that he is, without argument, the heavyweight of the '90s.

Photo By Jay Lash

Evander Holyfield



Tiozzo took the WBA title from a lethargic Miller

Photo By Al Bello/Allsport

Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Nate Miller

Las Vegas, Nevada: France's Tiozzo made good on a promise not to return home without a second world title when he outboxed Miller, dethroning the WBA cruiserweight champion by unanimous 12-round decision in the semifinal to the Evander Holyfield-Michael Moorer WBA/IBF unification bout at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Tiozzo, 190, St. Denis, France, abdicated the WBC light heavyweight title in 1995 when he couldn't make the weight, and had to wait 22 months before challenging Miller, 190, Philadelphia, in only his second American appearance.

Miller, making his fifth title defense, won the first two rounds with a sporadic jab, while Tiozzo, the WBA's number-six contender, was content to cautiously analyze what would be a lethargic effort by the 34-year-old defending champion. Tiozzo, 28, picked up the pace in the middle rounds while Miller's punches were rarely thrown in combination, instead coming in the form of a chopping, short right or a single jab.

There was nothing close to a knockdown, but the rugged Frenchman moved in front to stay on all three scorecards after the eighth round. Tiozzo, 37-1 (23), roused the crowd in the 10th when he forced back Miller, 30-5 (26), with three solid rights, cutting the champion above his right eye. Miller slipped to the canvas in the 11th round, and when he rose, Tiozzo was there to rock him twice with rights. In the final three minutes, Miller made a weak effort to generate a desperation rally, but Tiozzo came through with impressive five-punch salvos, waving to the crowd at the bell.

In the official judging, Fernando Viso (Venezuela) had it 117-114, while Chuck Giampa (USA) and Ove Overson (Denmark) both saw it 115-113, all for Tiozzo. THE RING's tab was 116-112 for Tiozzo.

"It was super fantastic to fight in Las Vegas, and to win another championship. I'm going home for a while, but I want to come back soon and fight in the U.S.A.," Tiozzo beamed, having earned $100,000.

Miller, who received $300,000 for his lifeless effort, said he "just couldn't get off like I wanted to," but offered no excuses. "The eye cut didn't bother me. Tiozzo was the better man tonight."

The referee was Richard Steele (USA).

Television: Showtime/SET pay-per-view

Promoters: Don King Productions, Main Events, and The Mirage Resort Casino

(11-8-97)

Jack Welsh

Imamu Mayfield W 12 Uriah Grant

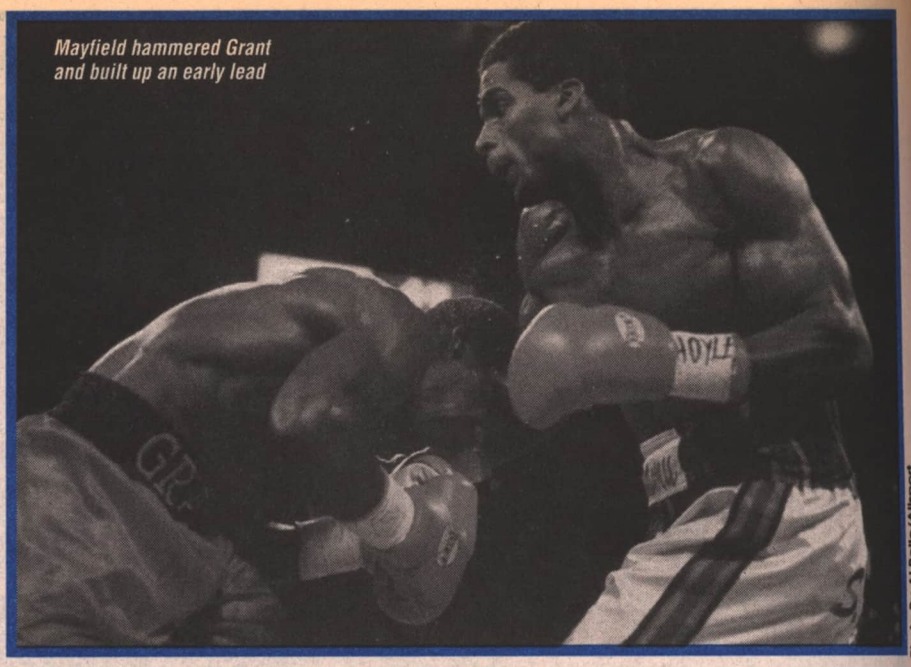

Mayfield hammered Grant and built up an early lead

Photo By Al Bello/Allsport

Las Vegas, Nevada: The free-punching Mayfield, 188, New Brunswick, New Jersey, dominated the first three rounds, then widened his margin by dropping Grant, 190, St. Andrew, Jamaica, in round five. Mayfield ran and countered effectively enough the rest of the way to capture the IBF cruiserweight championship via 12-round unanimous decision at the Thomas & Mack Center. The plodding Caribbean invader was no match for the 6'3" Mayfield, as the IBF's number-nine contender moved in and out, stunning Grant with combinations to the head and body.

Mayfield, 10 years younger than the incumbent at 25, relied on his superior height, reach, speed, jab, and power to spoil Grant's first defense of the belt he won in June '97 by upsetting Adolpho Washington. Now in his fourth year as a pro, Mayfield had a two-year run of seven straight knockouts snapped while improving his record to 17-1 (13). Grant, who had failed in his first two bids for the IBF title against Alfred Cole in 1993 and '95, saw his record slip to 26-13 (24) in his first Vegas appearance in nine years. Grant's purse was $40,000, while Mayfield collected $10,000.

Whoever the opponent, stalking has always been Grant's game, but his aggressiveness cost him in the fifth round when he missed with a wild right. Mayfield caught him coming in with a short, counter left hook to the jaw, and the gutsy veteran went down near the ropes. Referee Jay Nady's (USA) count reached eight before the defending champion rose.

Surprisingly, Grant began to land some of those rights he had been missing early and never stopped coming forward, trapping Mayfield twice along the ropes. It may not have been pretty, but the unorthodox style enabled Grant to win the sixth and seventh rounds.

Perhaps Mayfield was taking a breather. When the eighth round began, he resumed his aggression, dominating until the final minutes of the fight. Grant, clearly defeated, put on enough of a belated rally to win the 11th and 12th rounds on one judge's scorecard. The final scores of the three American judges were all for Mayfield. Duane Ford saw it 115-112, Gary Merritt had it 116-111, and Bill Graham scored it 117-110. THE RING's tab was 115-113.

After the fight, Mayfield dedicated his title victory to Curtis Ford, his trainer since he was 17, who died suddenly from a brain aneurysm earlier this year. "This is manifest of destiny. May Curtis Ford live forever. I know he is watching down and smiling at me," the new champion reflected. "As for the fight, my left hook has always been my strongest punch, and it worked well against Grant. Uriah is a great champion, and my hat is off to him. I want to enjoy my championship first, and then think about unifying the title."

Grant didn't make any excuses, though he did note: "Mayfield never stopped running all night. This kid runs constantly. He caught me with a good punch coming in, but I have to give him credit. I'd like to have a rematch with Mayfield as soon as possible."

Television: Showtime/SET pay-per-view

Promoters: Don King Productions, Main Events, and The Mirage Resort Casino

(11-8-97)

Jack Welsh

Wilfredo Vazquez W 12 Genaro Rios

Las Vegas, Nevada: If Vazquez, the WBA's first three-division champion, fights another 16 years, he'll never get a stronger squeeze from Lady Luck than he did in his 12-round unanimous decision over Rios. Vazquez retained the WBA featherweight title amid unrelenting catcalls from ringsiders at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Rios, 25, the WBA's number-eight challenger, isn't a one-punch bomber, but his hit-and-run style was effective enough to keep the 36-year-old Vazquez from getting off first when they went inside. For the most part, the slower Vazquez, 50-7-3 (37), spent the night backing up and wondering how to hit an irritating gnat wearing boxing gloves.

Vazquez, 126, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, definitely was the heavier puncher. The few times he managed to catch Rios, 126, Jinotega, Nicaragua, he drilled him with salvos of three to five punches that may have influenced the judges, despite the challenger landing three times as many punches overall. Rios never stopped giving Vazquez difficult angles, moving to either side and always working behind the quick jab. Even when the champion caught Rios with solid combinations early in the ninth round, the pressuring Nicaraguan launched a two-fisted assault to the body, working Vazquez into a corner and keeping him there until the bell.

Rios slipped to the canvas early in the 11th round, but was

back on track an instant later, trading bodyshots with Vazquez until the champion backed off. Clearly in superb condition, Rios was still in the trenches in round 12, raking Vazquez with combinations to the head and body. Once again, Rios had the weary champion pinned in a neutral corner, and was whacking away from all angles at the bell.

In the official scoring, Oswaldo Sanchez (Venezuela) saw it 115-114, Dave Moretti (USA) scored it 116-112, and Octavio Rodriguez (Panama) had it 117-113, all in favor of Vazquez. THE RING's scorecard read 115-113 for Rios.

Vazquez, who won the WBA bantamweight title in 1987 and the WBA junior featherweight crown in '92, indicated he considered himself somewhat lucky to get the win, admitting that Rios was a lot tougher than he expected.

"I was surprised that this kid had such a good heart and never quit punching," Vazquez said. "Rios was extremely good with his combinations and showed what kind of legs he had with all that movement. He was very tough to fight. He deserves a rematch, and I will be happy to give it to him if we agree."

Rios, 16-4 (7), earned a mere $5,000 in his first fight out of Managua since turning pro in 1993. "I wasn't too surprised at the decision, but I thought I won the fight. I would like a rematch," said the disappointed challenger. "I can see why Vazquez is still such a great champion. However, I feel I have distinguished myself at 126. I thought the decision was much closer, and I still think I won the fight."

The referee was Joe Cortez (USA).

Television: Showtime/SET pay-per-view

Promoters: Don King Productions, Main Events, and The Mirage Resort Casino

(11-8-97)

Jack Welsh

Chatchai Dutchboy Gym W 12 Yuri Arbachakov

Sapporo, Japan: Fast-punching Thailander Chatchai, 112, captured the WBC flyweight title, displaying faster and more accurate punches in dethroning defending champ Arbachakov with a unanimous and fairly lopsided decision. Chatchai, the WBC interim flyweight champ entering the fight, avenged his September 1995 loss to Arbachakov, whose reign of five years and five months ended at the Tsukisamu Green Dome. Arbachakov's 14 months of inactivity—he suffered a fractured right hand in his ninth defense, a TKO of Takahito Toguchi in August 1996—may have accounted for the upset. Arbachakov didn't show his usual speed, power, and zip on his punches.

Chatchai, 27, started well with fast one-two combinations and swept the first four rounds with ease. In the fourth, Chatchai staggered Arbachakov with a well-timed left hook and battered him with a barrage of punches. Arbachakov, 31, came back hard in the fifth and mixed it up in close range, scoring solid uppercuts to the belly. The Russian attempted to apply the same strategy in the sixth, but Chatchai countered with effective left-right combos to pin the champ to the ropes in the last minute of the round.

Chatchai was also in command in the seventh and eighth, remaining more aggressive and accurate than the defensive champ. After a shaky ninth, Chatchai, a 1988 Olympian, dominated the last three rounds. He unleashed very sharp jabs to Arbachakov's face and had the champ repeatedly missing with long right hands in the 10th. Arbachakov remained defensive, allowing Chatchai to connect with left-right combos to the face and the belly in the 11th and 12th.

The scoring was decisive in the aggressive Thailander's favor, as Dick Young (USA) saw it 117-111, Tomotsu Tomihara (USA) had it a bit closer at 116-113, and Jose Juan Guerra (Mexico)

Rios kept coming at Vazquez, but lost a questionable decision

Photo By Al Bello/Allsport

scored the bout 119-111. Chatchai, 31-1 (23), had acquired the WBC interim title during Arbachakov's long inactivity by outscoring Isaias Zamudio in May '97, and defended it once by stopping Argentine Juan Domingo Cordoba in August.

Arbachakov, 23-1 (16), was not the same fighter who dominated his opponents for more than a half-decade. He remained too cautious and negative, missing altogether on many occasions. The loser acknowledged his less-than-satisfactory performance, saying, "I was ring rusty, and couldn't find a proper range. I wish to consider whether I will continue fighting or not for a month."

The jubilant new champ said, "I became confident of my victory from the fifth round on. Yuri wasn't as strong as two years before."

The referee was Carlos Padilla (Philippines).

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(11-12-97)

Joe Koizumi

Hopkins easily outpointed the gritty Council

Photo by Angie Collins

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Arnel Barotillo

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Atop a card billed "Amabutho Empi," or "Warriors Of War," featuring the charismatic Baby Jake Matlala, the legendary Roberto Duran, and a pair of alphabet organizations' "world" title matches, Bungu successfully defended the IBF junior featherweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over Australia-based Filipino Barotillo. Making the 10th defense of the title before 4,000 rain-drenched fans at the open-air Carousel gambling resort, South African Bungu, 122, appeared to be in his best form against the rugged Barotillo, 121½.

This was possibly Bungu's finest performance since winning the title from Kennedy McKinney in August 1994. The 23-year-old Barotillo, 18-8-2 (12), had just one loss in his last 15 fights and looked dangerous for the first three rounds as he tried to rough up and intimidate the champion. On several occasions, referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) had to warn the challenger for his slightly dirty tactics. But the skillful Bungu, 30, slipped in and out to land with several good left hooks and straight rights to the head, opening up a small cut over Barotillo's right eye and leaving him puffy under both eyes by the end of the fight. Bungu, 34-2 (18), commanded the center of the ring as he stalked the challenger throughout the fight, and it was only in the last round that he relaxed with some showboating after an outstanding performance.

Judges Lulama Mtya (South Africa) and Ray Wheatley (Australia) scored it 118-111, while Edward Marchand (USA) gave Bungu a shutout, 120-109.

Promoter: Golden Gloves Promotions

(11-15-97)

Ron Jackson

Bernard Hopkins W 12 Andrew Council

Upper Marlboro, Maryland: A knockout might be the most glamorous and thrilling result for fans, but a display of mastery over 12 rounds can offer a subtler form of brilliance. IBF middleweight champion Hopkins, 160, Philadelphia, put on what may have been the best performance of his career, scoring a unanimous 12-round decision over Council, 160, Lanham, Maryland, in his sixth title defense.

"The Executioner" showed his championship qualities just accepting the match, traveling down I-95 to what amounted to Council's backyard to fight a rugged, resourceful, and underrated challenger. Part brawl, part chess match, this title fight at the Show Place Arena never lacked for excitement.

Hopkins, 33-2-1 (25), opened the fight displaying thumping leadoff rights to the head and left hooks to the body. Characteristically, the challenger looked like a statue. Council, 29, likes to start slow, punching little, but applying steady pressure that gradually increases over the fight. He had to get involved a little quicker against Hopkins, and was never able to swing the momentum his way.

In the second, Council, 27-6-3 (19), came out probing with his jab, and landed a smart left hook to the body after ducking under a Hopkins right. The 32-year-old Hopkins forced Council to the ropes, where the challenger spent much of the fight, and began digging downstairs. Council was warned for hitting on the break by referee Kenny Chevalier (USA). After that, the two went to work on each other's bodies.

The third round featured tactical warfare, feinting and slipping, punctuated by big hooks. But midway through, Hopkins turned it up a notch, forcing Council to the ropes and overwhelming him in withering trading. At round's end, Council began to rip Hopkins' body and his trainer, Adrian Davis, had to jump into the ring and pull him off after the bell.

Hopkins started the fourth with a huge right hand, before Council made his best move of the fight, coming forward and

crowding the champion. Hopkins complained of low blows after taking four unanswered shots, and Council stayed right on top of him. By this time, the fight was cooking. The fifth opened with the crowd of 2,430 chanting "Andrew! Andrew!" and Council had his best round, hurting Hopkins with a big left hook. Hopkins began going backward, but he showed his flexibility, dropping in a huge right near round's end. Still, the session closed with Council aggressively attacking to the body.

Council came out of the round bleeding around his left eye, and Chevalier stopped the fight briefly in the sixth for the doctor to take a look. When action resumed, Hopkins wobbled Council with a tremendous right hand. Council staggered into a neutral corner, but when Hopkins moved in, Council recovered and they traded furiously. The referee stopped the fight momentarily and took a point from Council for hitting after a break.

Hopkins lost a point himself for a low blow in the seventh. He came out for the eighth with his protective gear riding high over his trunks. In this round, Hopkins' slightly unorthodox lead right served him well, and he rocked Council, who began to wilt. But Council showed his guile and began bluffing Hopkins with a woozy walk. He bought time, cleared his head, and got back into the mix.

Despite a strong ninth, there was nothing Council could do. He displayed decent skills, but Hopkins was too well-conditioned and too strong. The champion swept the final three rounds, and Council had another point deducted in the 12th for excessive holding.

Judges Paul Artisst (USA) and Bill Holmes (USA) scored the bout 118-106, while Earnest Green (USA) had it 119-105—all for Hopkins. THE RING scored the fight 116-109, also for Hopkins.

Television: USA Network

Promoter: America Presents

(11-19-97)

John Scheinman

Joichiro Tatsuyoshi KO 7 Sirimongkol Singmanassuk

Osaka, Japan: Japanese underdog Tatsuyoshi, 118, impressively battered previously unbeaten Singmanassuk, 118, Thailand, with vicious bodyshots, dropped him twice, and chalked up a spectacular TKO at 1:54 of the seventh round to regain the WBC bantam throne at Osaka Castle Hall. The 20-year-old Singmanassuk was a prohibitive favorite in this, his fourth title defense, and few had expected Tatsuyoshi's re-coronation.

Tatsuyoshi had failed in two recent attempts to win the WBC super bantamweight title from Daniel Zaragoza, and most described the challenger as a finished warrior, unworthy of another crack at a WBC crown. But Tatsuyoshi, an extremely popular Japanese boxer due to his flamboyance, arrogance, and comical characteristics, proved his doubters wrong with his outstanding performance.

Tatsuyoshi, 27, got off to a very good start as he completely outjabbed the overconfident champion in the opening canto. The Japanese warrior kept jabbing in the second, but the taller champ occasionally landed a few heavier jabs and right crosses. Singmanassuk, a handsome Thai version of Oscar De La Hoya, continued to look for openings for his vaunted right hand in the third. Tatsuyoshi continued jabbing and moving well, but Singmanassuk scored with solid left-right combos to the face of the Japanese fighter to leave him staggering.

Tatsuyoshi turned loose in the fourth, as he doubled up the defending champion with his specialty, a left uppercut to the side of the belly. Tatsuyoshi sent the champ sprawling to the floor in the fifth with a beautiful one-two combo after he'd softened Singmanassuk with persistent body bombardments.

Though confused and exhausted, Singmanassuk desperately came out fighting, threw powerful punches furiously, and made Tatsuyoshi groggy in the sixth. Fortunes, however, would soon change again.

Obviously tired and fading, Singmanassuk recklessly attempted to demolish his opponent with all he had in the seventh. He had Tatsuyoshi at bay, but when Singmanassuk relented for a moment, the Japanese underdog landed a wicked left uppercut to the stomach. Down went the champ again. He fell on all fours, and barely beat the count. Tatsuyoshi swarmed over the groggy champ and unleashed a volley of punches that almost turned the champion completely around. Referee Richard Steele (USA) intervened to save Singmanassuk from further punishment.

Tatsuyoshi, 15-4-1 (12), stopped the notorious string of 16 failed atempts by Japanese fighters to win world titles. Singmanassuk, 16-1 (6), reported severe reduction of weight that might have accounted for his unexpected defeat.

As Tatsuyoshi had lost in three previous title bouts, he was advised by many to hang up his gloves for good. But his popularity, on par with Frank Bruno's in England, made him continue in his campaign for another title crack. Before the stoppage, official tallies were as follows: Lou Filippo (USA) had it 58-55, Tom Kaczmarek (USA) scored it 58-54, and Terry Smith (USA) saw the fight 57-56, all for the new WBC bantamweight champion.

Promoter: Akihiko Honda's Teiken Promotions

(11-22-97)

Joe Koizumi

Jose Bonilla KO 6 Keiji Yamaguchi

Osaka, Japan: Crafty veteran Bonilla, 112, Venezuela, kept the WBA flyweight title as he floored ex-WBA junior flyweight ruler Yamaguchi, 112, Japan, and scored an impressive TKO victory at 2:20 of the sixth session at Osaka Castle Hall. Yamaguchi, taller by three inches, was a prefight favorite, but he failed to follow his strategy of keeping his distance by utilizing his footwork. Instead, he unwisely mixed it up with the Venezuelan sharpshooter.

The 23-year-old Yamaguchi, who had dethroned Panama's Carlos Murillo to become the WBA 108-pound titlist in May '96, is a Naseem Hamed-type stylist, hanging his hands down and showboating. He lost the WBA junior fly throne on a second-round TKO by Thai southpaw Pichitnoi C. Siriwat in Osaka in December '96.

Yamaguchi took the early advantage, throwing sharp southpaw rights to befuddle the 30-year-old champ in the first stanza. Bonilla, who had wrested the WBA crown by an upset nod over previously unbeaten Saen Sor Ploenchit in Thailand, took command in the second as he accurately landed right-left-right combos. Bonilla maintained the pressure on the lanky lefty, who occa-

Mosley outclassed Gomez on his way to a knockout

Photo By Bill Haines

sionally scored right jabs and counters to the willing mixer in the third and fourth. Bonilla clearly dominated the fifth, as he circled to the right and repeatedly caught the challenger with straight rights to the face.

The sixth saw Bonilla explode with a vicious left hook right on the button, and Yamaguchi sprawled flat on the canvas before struggling to raise himself. Though the fight was resumed, Bonilla quickly finished the affair with a barrage of punches that pinned Yamaguchi to the ropes. Referee Julio Cesar Alvarado (Panama) declared a fully warranted halt.

Bonilla, 24-3 (11), registered his third defense. Yamaguchi, 22-3 (8), was trying to avenge stablemate Hiroki Ioka's seventh-round TKO loss last February, but ended up getting beaten a round earlier than Ioka. The official scores prior to the stoppage were as follows: Duane Ford (USA) 48-47, Oscar Perez (USA) 49-46, and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) 49-46, all for Bonilla.

Bonilla, formerly a notorious drinker, has clearly shown progress since he stopped drinking and concentrated instead on retaining the WBA crown.

Promoter: Akihiko Honda's Teiken Promotions

(11-22-97)

Joe Koizumi

Shane Mosley KO 11 Manuel Gomez

El Paso, Texas: In a bout that ended with one of the most devastating punches of the year, Mosley, making the first defense of the IBF lightweight title, crushed contender Gomez with a perfectly timed right hand that quieted the 2,100 fans at the El Paso County Coliseum who had been rooting vigorously for the challenger.

The punch landed midway into the 11th, and it connected squarely on the point of Gomez' chin. Upon impact, Gomez' body immediately went limp, and he froze for a split second before crashing face-first to the deck. While on the canvas, the semi-conscious Gomez rolled over and eerily punched at the air, instinctively waging battle in a hazy fog. His cornermen, fearing the gallant warrior from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, was seriously hurt, scurried into the ring and frantically waved the fight over.

Afterward, Mosley, Pomona, California, described the knockout blow. "It was a fast right, right on the money," Mosley, 25-0 (23), said. "I timed it just right, and it caught him right on the chin."

Until the concussive conclusion, Mosley was in control, but seemingly unable to find the right combination to put the pesky Gomez on the deck for good. "Sugar Shane," 26, came out fast, pumping perhaps the best jab in the division and continually snapping Gomez' head back. As the rounds progressed, Mosley followed up the jab with snappy right hands and, in the fourth, almost got the early knockout he had been hoping for when he dropped Gomez with a right. It looked like the end. But Gomez, 25, popped up, and although woozy and rubber-legged, continued to march forward and press Mosley while the pro-Gomez contingent started chanting his name. Although he couldn't match Mosley's class, Gomez displayed admirable grit, raking the champ with mostly harmless right and lefts to the body, and daring him to bring it on as he waved Mosley in.

Gomez had his best round in the sixth, when he battled Mosley to the ropes and pounded his body. He also scored with a few right hands, but most of the shots sailed harmlessly over Mosley's head or landed high.

The gracious Mosley acknowledged that Gomez, 27-9 (16), had the heat to hurt him, but said his defense bailed him out. He was comfortably ahead on all the scorecards at the time of the vicious knockout.

"I didn't expect a tough fight like this," said the champion, sporting swollen eyebrows, but beaming nonetheless. "He gave his heart and soul. He came to fight."

Now, Mosley is hoping for unification battles with either WBA champ Orzubek Nazarov or WBC king Stevie Johnston. Another possibility is Gabriel Ruelas, but the fight Mosley really wants is IBF junior lightweight champ Arturo Gatti, who will no doubt rise in weight after an early-1998 meeting with Angel Manfredy.

The referee was Barry Yates (USA).

Television: USA Network

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(11-25-97)

Matthew Aguilar

Danny Romero KO 5 Roberto Lopez

El Paso, Texas: For a few seconds in Romero's comeback win over unknown substitute Lopez at the El Paso County Coliseum, it looked like September 1995 all over again.

Lopez, subbing for Jose Sarabia, wound up with a right hand in the fourth round and hit Romero right on the chin. The two-time former champ froze for a split second and his attack stalled for an instant, bringing back visions of his upset loss two years ago to unknown Willy Salazar. But it was not to be. Romero recovered quickly and came back to punish Lopez in the fifth, finally stopping his tough adversary from Tijuana, Mexico, with a single pulverizing left hook to the liver at 1:38 of the round.

"I felt [the punch] come out his back, and that's all she wrote," said a jolly Romero of the vicious knockout punch. "Now, I'm going to go eat some pumpkin pie."

Romero, who weighed a heavy 123 pounds, came out bombing, applying suffocating pressure on the much smaller Lopez, who scaled 119. But the extra baggage Romero was carrying seemed to slow him, and the quicker Lopez took advantage by firing quick, flashy right hand counters. Romero, 31-2 (28), won all three rounds before the fourth, when Lopez connected with his haymaker and immediately pounced on his golden opportunity, firing a volley of quick but soft punches as the enthusiastic throng of 2,100 went nuts.

The El Paso crowd sensed another upset as a weary Romero, 23, returned to his corner, bruised and frustrated. But Romero never stopped moving forward, and continued to pound on Lopez, 24, with thumping power shots that could be heard throughout the building. Finally, Romero countered a sweeping Lopez right with a dip, a pivot, and the classic left hook to the liver. Lopez, 14-7-1 (5), never attempted to beat referee Jerry McKenzie's (USA) count of 10.

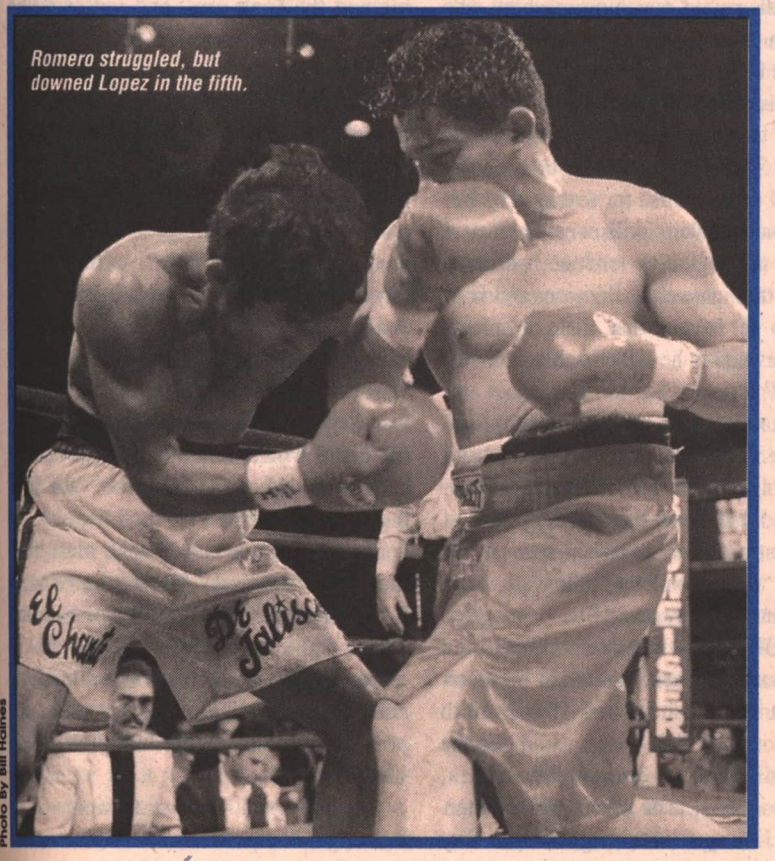
Afterward, Romero, who had been fighting at junior bantamweight and now says he will campaign at bantam, said he felt strong at the higher weight. His father and trainer, Danny Sr., said his son needed the work after being off for four months.

Television: USA Network

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(11-25-97)

Matthew Aguilar



Romero struggled, but downed Lopez in the fifth.

Photo By Bill Haines

Gerry Penalosa KO 10 Youngjoo Cho

Songnam, Korea: Crafty lefty Penalosa, 114¾, Philippines, came off the canvas in the opening session, swept all rounds thereafter, and finally sank Korean southpaw Cho, 115, with solid bodyshots at 1:15 of the 10th round at Songnam Indoor Gymnasium. It was Penalosa's second defense of the WBC super flyweight title since he dethroned Japan's Hiroshi Kawashima on an upset decision in February 1997.

The Filipino champ had the previously unbeaten Korean at bay in the first round, and attempted to finish the affair with a barrage of punches. But Penalosa became a bit careless and wild, leaving himself open to a counter right from the groggy Cho. The punch sent the champ to the canvas, but it was just a flash knockdown, and Penalosa promptly stood up to beat the count.

From the second round on, Penalosa fought more cautiously, sticking right jabs with precision, drawing blood from Cho's nose to match the cut on his right eyebrow that was opened in the first. The sixth saw Penalosa render Cho dizzy with repeated three-punch combinations. Cho kept weaving and circling, though, refusing to go down. Penalosa was patient enough to keep jabbing, making the challenger's face a bloody mess by the seventh.

Cho showed his determination, attacking the titlist in the opening stages of the seventh and eighth rounds, but Penalosa cleverly averted his challenger's desperate rallies to control the remainder of the rounds. In the 10th, Penalosa came forward to whip the fading Korean with good combinations to the face and midsection. A wicked right hook to the side of the belly brought Cho to his knees, and as he struggled to will himself back up, referee Luis Carlos Guzman (Argentina) reached the count of 10.

Penalosa was too strong for the less experienced Cho, 24, who dropped to 11-1-1 (9). Penalosa, 25, bettered his mark to 39-1-1 (24). Through nine rounds, Carol Castellano (USA) had the bout scored 88-82, Marty Sammon (USA) saw it 88-83, and Kazumasa Kuwata (Japan) scored it 88-82, all for Penalosa.

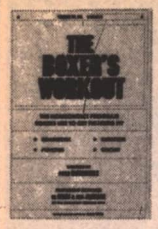
Before Penalosa faces mandatory challenger Joel Luna Zarate of Mexico, his manager, Wakee Saludo, wishes to have his champ make his third defense in his native Cebu, Philippines.

Promoter: Hwang Ki Promotions, Kukdong Promotions

(11-23-97)

Joe Koizumi ■

"The total effect is a
★ KNOCKOUT." ★
Publisher's Weekly



The Boxer's Workout clearly and systematically presents all the elements of a sound boxer's workout program, with unprecedented step-by-step photo-illustrations of the essential moves and punches. It was written by writer-boxer Peter DePasquale, with veteran coaches Al Gavin and Bob Jackson of New York's Gramercy Boxing Gym.

If you're a novice boxer, you'll use **The Boxer's Workout** to practice the basics your coach has taught you until they become second nature. If you're an experienced boxer, you'll use the book as a refresher course to keep your technique sharp. If your're a coach, you'll want your boxers to have **The Boxer's Workout** to complement and reinforce the training you give them in the gym. If you're a white-collar boxer, you'll find **The Boxer's Workout** an invaluable training partner. And if you're a boxing fan, **The Boxer's Workout** will make you an even more intelligent observer of the sport.

The book covers all you need to know: Preconditioning, roadwork, diet, equipment, when and where to train, training at home, health club, or serious boxing gym, proper hand wrapping, balanced stance, correct movement, the thinking and psychology, behind punches and moves, left jab, straight right, right cross, uppercut, left houk, combinations, blocking, parrying, slipping, opportunistic defense, counterpunching, developing your personal boxing style, the training circuit, warmup, shadowboxing, mirror training, heavy bag, speed bag, jump rope, stomach routine, medicine ball and more. Guidelines on sparring and competition.

Over 80 photo-illustrations. Featured book excerpt in *Men's Fitness* and *Men's Health* magazines. A "must have" classic for anyone involved in any aspect of boxing.

Send check or money order for $14.95 plus $1.95 shipping to: **FIGHTING FIT INC., PO BOX 021334, DEPT.19A,BROOKLYN, NY 11202-0029.**

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) below to which you subscribe:

☐ BOXING 98/WORLD BOXING
☐ KO
☐ THE RING

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

4574/09-97

Cyclone Johnny Thompson

(Continued from page 57)

around, but Thompson was counting on his stamina to overcome that when they met in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 8, 1909. "I will take all he's got and keep on racing," said Thompson. "If I lose, it will be back to the Sycamore farm for me. I am only in the game to win the championship, and I can't be figured as a contender if McFarland whips me."

According to the *Police Gazette* account of the 10-rounder, Packey, weighing 142 to Thompson's 134, was knocked down in the second and "in practically every round it was McFarland who was backing away or holding on." Afterward, it was Batt Nelson who backed away from his promise to give Thompson a title shot. The following February, he fought Ad Wolgast instead and lost the crown.

His futile pursuit of the lightweight title so aggravated Thompson that he began to float some trail balloons that struck boxing observers as downright horrifying. One of the them was for a fight with Billy Papke, the middleweight punching machine who had won the championship from Stanley Ketchell in 1908. Thompson, editorialized the *Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin* newspaper, "is going beyond all reasonable bounds. There is no club in the country who will offer a purse for that kind of battle, as matchmakers will consider it one-sided at the beginning ... John had better stick to the lightweight division, and if he wants to get beyond that, there are plenty of welterweights he will be able to match up with."

In the first half of 1910, Thompson won five bouts and waited for new champion Wolgast to take him up on his now-standard offer of the entire purse if Thompson failed to whip him in 20 rounds, "in this country, in private, or in any country he may name."

But Wolgast, like Nelson, avoided Thompson, so when Australian promoter Hugh D. McIntosh invited Thompson to join a troupe of U.S. boxers sailing on the Zealandia for a tour of Australia, Thompson went. The others were welterweight Jimmy Clabby, lightweight Ray Bronson, and Papke himself, "The Illinois Thunderbolt" who had been playing a vicious game of tag with Ketchell for what was then the 158-pound title. Ketchell had knocked him out in their third meeting, but in mid-1910, Ketchell announced he was through as a middleweight. As Papke was the last man to hold the title before Ketchell, he claimed it. And when Ketchell was shot dead on October 10 of that year, Papke's claim was widely accepted.

It was a jovial crossing, with Thompson training hard every day and serving as the good-natured butt of the group's jokes. When some passengers inquired about Thompson's cauliflower ears, Clabby replied that farmer Johnny got them "sleeping on milk cans."

In his first outing in Sydney, a beefier Thompson beat Rudy Unholz for the third time. "The sea voyage over increased Johnny's weight considerably, and he has found it hard to reduce in this climate," wrote Thomas S. Andrews, the famous U.S. boxing writer who accompanied the American fighters. When Thompson beat Aussie lightweight champion Hughie Mehegan, he had to forfeit $250 because he couldn't make the 133-pound limit. He blamed the "salt air," and indicated he would fight at around 150 pounds for the balance of the tour.

After he knocked out Tim Land in 20 rounds, Andrews ventured that "Johnny will never be able to fight again at the lightweight limit, for he cannot make it without sawing off a leg." But Thompson had something more drastic in mind. Five days after he lost a 20-round decision to Australian 158-pound champion Dave Smith, Thompson was back in Rushcutter's Bay ring. In the other corner was Papke. "While the followers back in the States would look upon such a contest as ridiculous," wrote Andrews, "the fans here are crazy for it."

Twenty rounds later, Papke must have thought he was crazy for ever agreeing to it. Thompson stayed on top of him the entire fight, and referee Snowy Baker unhesitatingly raised his hand at the final bell. The lightweight nobody wanted was now the middleweight champion of the world.

Hearing he didn't have to worry about fighting Thompson was a relief to 133-

pound champion Wolgast. "He is the toughest fighter I ever met," said "The Michigan Wildcat." "He can take a lot of punishment without any apparent effects, and he has a good punch."

In an account of Thompson's career contained in a Sycamore history booklet called *Nostalgia And Glee*, it is fancifully stated that "for lack of competition the middleweight championship was allowed to die out in 1912. Thus Thompson retired as champion. He outlived the crown." Not hardly. The fact is that Thompson's claim to the title was only one of many. The murder of Ketchell created a potpourri of self-appointed champions, including Frank Klaus, Hugo Kelly, and Eddie McGoorty, the best middleweights of the time.

Taking advantage of the confusion, Papke decided that his fight with Thompson didn't count, and reclaimed the crown for himself. Then he topped off the effrontery by announcing that he was raising the middleweight limit to 160 pounds. Thompson set the record straight in a letter to Tom Andrews: "I did give [Papke] a beating in Australia, and he knows it. And besides, he weighed nearer 180 than 160, while I weighed just 153."

It wouldn't be until 1914, when Papke lost to Klaus, that there would be anything resembling a universally acknowledged middleweight champion again. By then it made little difference to Thompson, because he was a heavyweight. He still sounded like the old Thompson, though. On October 3 of that year, he fought a six-round draw with Gunboat Smith, recognized as the "white heavyweight champion" by people who couldn't stomach the fact that an African-American, Jack Johnson, held the real crown. When a newspaperman remarked on his battered features after the bout, Thompson said, "You ought to see Gunboat. I broke his nose and cut a gash across his cheek. And he smashed both his hands on my head. If that guy's the white heavyweight champion, so am I. If I can't knock him out in 20 rounds, he can still have the purse."

A year earlier, when the New York boxing commission had decided to resurrect the moribund 175-pound title, Thompson and Milwaukee's Bob Moha fought for what was called the "commission weight" championship. Moha won, but nobody took that title seriously until Jack Dillon won it a year later.

Cyclone Johnny finally did get another title in 1915, but not in the ring. Newspapers reported that after the police chief of Sycamore was "shot by a thug," the "citizens demanded that a 'tough man' be named to the post." There was no better choice, of course, and for $75 a month, Thompson filled the bill for a year before retiring to his farm for good.

Thompson lived into his 75th year, until May 28, 1951. By then diabetes had taken his sight, and with old age had come other problems hinted at by a neighbor, Helen Bingham, in a memoir of her own life in Sycamore. Bingham recalled Thompson as "a quiet, kindly man with scar-tissue swollen eyes, broken nose, and cauliflower ears. Past middle age, he was overweight and, although he never showed it, rumor said that he drank to ease the pain in his head. This we did not know for sure, but, by his own admission, he did suffer with many severe headaches caused by the years of being pounded in the boxing ring. We had a picture at home of the early Cyclone Johnny—young, clear-eyed, and unbelievably handsome—taken while he was climbing toward his world boxing championships [sic]. It was hard to believe that the battered face I knew could possibly be the same person who was in the picture. I developed a loathing for boxing then—an aversion to the sport which I hold to this day."

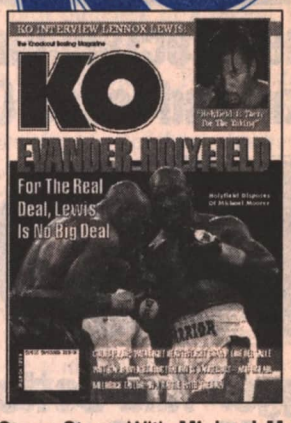
But Cyclone Johnny had an answer for that. He gave it in the letter he wrote his hometown newspaper after it anointed him with the title that meant as much if not more than any prize chased or won in the boxing ring.

"To be honored as a citizen and to be this recognized for my honest endeavor to make the name Sycamore, Illinois, celebrated has always been my ambition. It seems I have succeeded, and even if I do not rise higher in my profession, your article has amply repaid me, as it tends to show my policy in life—honesty and perseverance—will be appreciated.

"A man's character will outlive his profession," wrote the town's Greatest Man in 1908, "be he merchant, doctor, banker, or pugilist." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

THIS MONTH IN KO



•Cover Story: With **Michael Moorer** out of the picture, **Evander Holyfield** now has his sights set on unifying all three heavyweight belts by taking on WBC champ **Lennox Lewis**. While most observers see Lewis as a daunting task, for "The Real Deal" he is merely one more obstacle on the way to securing his legacy.

•Heavyweight **David Izon** soared to the front of the pack with his upset victory over **Lou Savarese** in Harlem. *KO* takes an in-depth look at this Nigerian police officer who traded in his nightstick for a pair of gloves, and has emerged as one of the best young prospects among the big men.

•Two-time former world champion **Meldrick Taylor** has found that life after boxing can in many ways be even more painful than taking a beating in the ring. Learn all about Taylor's financial problems, his trouble with the law, and his hopes of getting his life back on track.

•Also: Lennox Lewis explains why "Holyfield is there for the taking" in an exclusive *KO* interview; *KO* examines the dangers of rapid weight fluctuation in boxing; and light heavyweight champ **Lou Del Valle** is featured in a full-color centerfold.

ALL THIS AND MORE IN THE MARCH 1988 ISSUE OF KO

ON SALE NOW!!

Coming February 3
THE KO OF THE YEAR

The Spectacular Year-End Issue Of

KO

Bigger And Better And More Colorful Than Ever

DON'T MISS IT!

- 88 Power-Packed Pages
- Explosive Full-Color Section
- Year-End Award Winners
- Annual Best Fighter Poll
- The Highly Unofficial Official Awards
- Plus All The Regular Departments

KO's Special Year-End Issue Is Cover-Dated April 1998

On Sale February 3

KO

The Knockout Boxing Magazine

4615/11-97/2c

New Faces

(Continued from page 58)

father's boxing pictures and fight posters adorned the house. Each time the family drove on the 10 Freeway near their East Los Angeles home, they passed the fabled Olympic Auditorium, where his father had rumbled several times.

"You will fight there some day," Pena's mother would say with a smile.

Indeed, Pena, 19, was surrounded by the rich tradition of the ring. Yet, it would take an afternoon of watching *Rocky IV* to finally push him into boxing. He was 12 years old and had just witnessed Rocky Balboa conquer his Russian opponent when he told his father, "Take me to the gym."

Somewhat fitting when you consider Pena's home is a 15-minute drive from Hollywood.

That first day at the Aztec Gym, Pena was a silent observer. By the second day, he began training and never looked back. In the meantime, he has watched all five Rocky movies over and over, declaring *Rocky I* and *Rocky II* as his favorites. In real life, he has become one of the best junior bantamweight prospects in the country.

"Pedro has been exceptional as a pro," said Tom Loeffler, boxing director of Mouthpiece Sports and Entertainment, the Los Angeles-based management company that represents Pena. "I think he has the complete package."

The package that is Pedro Pena nearly petered out before completion. Pena's older brother, Robert, also went to the gym, but trained strictly for conditioning, and today is a pre-med student at East Los Angeles College. After Pedro lost his first amateur fight, his parents envisioned the same route for their younger son. That night, after losing a decision, when Pena went to kiss his parents good night, his mother questioned whether he should continue to box. Both his parents began speaking to him about the virtue of an education. His father knew all too well the rigors of boxing, and wasn't convinced he wanted his son to follow the same bloody path.

"I couldn't believe what they were saying," said Pena. "I went back to the gym and kept training. I wanted to be a fighter. Then I won my second fight, and my father saw something in me. I always had it in my heart to be someone in this game."

Pena comes from a tight-knit, devout Catholic family. His parents moved to California from Colima, Mexico, in 1976. They have guided both their sons through the rugged Pico-Alico Projects of East L.A., the same neighborhood that produced '84 Olympic gold medalist Paul Gonzales. When Pena graduated from Roosevelt High School in '96, his mother, Antonia, was happier than the day he won the Nationals.

Pena, is actually Pena's mother's name. When he was born in 1978, his father was out of town boxing, and somehow his son's name wound up on his birth certificate as Pedro Pena. Yet his brother's name is Robert Garcia. In a tribute to both his parents, Pedro has "Pena" stenciled on the front of his trunks and "Garcia" on the back.

The name may be confusing, but his style isn't. Pena is a straightforward slugger with power in both hands. At 5'6", he is relatively tall for a 115-pounder, but that doesn't prevent him from waging war on the inside. He has scored six knockouts in eight pro fights. Thus far, he has boxed a total of 19 rounds. Perhaps boxed is the wrong word. He doesn't box, he fights. No, he swarms, suffocating opponents with a steady barrage of punches. Of his six knockouts, three have come in the first round.

Pena is soft-spoken and unassuming. His pleasant demeanor belies the fury he unleashes once the bell rings.

"I like putting the pressure on," he said. "My opponents must be thinking, *how is it that this guy keeps coming?* They must be thinking, *when is he going to get tired?* I never get tired."

That kind of style requires complete dedication to boxing. Pena runs five to six miles a day with teammates Carlos Navarro and Eddie Sanchez.

"They're probably the only friends I have," he said.

He trains every day at the Los Angeles Boxing Club under the tutelage of trainer Frank Rivera. On any given day, the gym is host to the best boxers in the world. WBC super lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez trains there daily. "We talk," says Pena of Hernandez. "He says 'Hi' to me every day. He's real nice to everybody. He's the nicest guy I've ever seen in boxing."

The gym is often frequented by Mexican champions who prefer training there while visiting Los Angeles. Among those Pena has seen at the gym are Marco Antonio Barrera and Ricardo Lopez. And then there was his sparring session with Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez.

"I was getting ready for the U.S. Nationals," said Pena, who was 16 at the time. "I sparred with him for two rounds. I was very nervous. He was a world champion getting ready to defend his title. I went in there like a scared mouse. Then in the last half of the first round, I just got on top of him and I didn't let him go. The Rocky in me came out. It was the same thing in the second round. He started getting mad, and punches were coming harder. I wouldn't give him any breathing room. After I came down from the ring, everyone started shaking my hand. There was a TV crew there to interview Chiquita, but then they wanted to interview me. My trainer wouldn't let them. I knew then that I was ready for the Nationals."

A highly decorated amateur, Pena compiled a 47-3 record while winning the U.S. Nationals (1995), the National Golden Gloves (1993), and the National PAL championships (1995). His performance at the Nationals earned him a number-one ranking at 112 pounds, although Olympic glory managed to elude him when he entered the Olympic Trials with flu-like symptoms and was stopped in the first round of his first fight against Eric Morel.

Morel, who eventually represented the U.S. at the '96 Games, ruptured Pena's eardrum with a right hand, and the blow severely affected Pena's equilibrium. The fight was stopped, and because of the injury Pena could not challenge Morel in the Box-offs. He still yearns for revenge.

"We'd fight Morel right now," said Loeffler. "A big part of Pedro's motivation is to fight Morel as a pro."

Loeffler is actually hoping that the rematch comes when one or both of the fighters are professional world champions, a contest that would draw a lucrative purse for each. Until then, Pena is keeping an eye on Morel, who is campaigning in the pro ranks as a flyweight.

"We watch him fight on television, and my mom tells me, 'One day you will get him,'" said Pena. "I want to prove to him that I was better than what he saw in the Olympic Trials."

While that day may come in the future, Pena still needs time to polish his skills if he is to be a world champion. With Pena's style comes a price. He gets hit. In fact, after Pena swallowed some hard punches in a recent fight, Loeffler questioned the fighter on the impact of those blows. Pena insisted he was unfazed. But Loeffler would rather see Pena slip *some* of those punches.

Given an opportunity to talk about his future, Pena returned to his two obsessions: Rocky Balboa and Eric Morel. He envisions an epic battle with Morel, perhaps even at the Olympic Auditorium. Pena's idealism is refreshing, but it would be a mistake to dismiss him as a dreamer. So far, he's been fairly successful at making his dreams come true.

"I think about *Rocky I* a lot," said Pena. "When Rocky is fighting with Apollo Creed, it really motivates me. The fight keeps getting harder and harder. It's like a war. It perks me up. I can see myself in a fight like that. That's what I see when I'm fighting Eric Morel. I see it as me being Rocky and him as Apollo. I come out the winner, of course."

A happy ending—what else could one expect from a teenager who grew up inside a boxing shrine on the outskirts of Hollywood? ■

Robert Cassidy is a freelance writer based in New York and a frequent contributor to this magazine.

QUEST MARKETING

Authentic Boxing Shirts!

SEE THESE RED AND BLACK LETTERED SHIRTS, ORDER FORMS, AND MORE ON OUR WEB-SITE: http://www.boxing.cards.com

#1 #2 #3 #4

#1 Boxing Fan

Box till U Drop

All Shirts are 50% Cotton, 50% Nylon

YOUTH	M(10-12) & L(14-16):	#1___ #2___ #3___ #4___	@$12.95ea
ADULT	S, M, L, XL:	#1___ #2___ #3___ #4___	@$14.95ea
ADULT	XXL:	#1___ #2___ #3___ #4___	@$16.95ea

Excellent to wear to boxing bouts, or everyday wear

Subtotal _____
S/H _____
Total _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____

☐ Check/Money Order (Payable to Quest Marketing Co.)
☐ VISA _____
☐ MasterCard _____

Exp. Date _____/_____

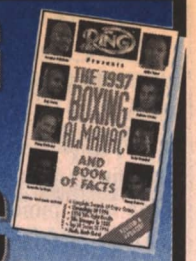
Signature _____
Add 3$ Shipping/Handling for each item ordered.
Outside U.S. add $7 for each item.

Includes FREE! #1 Boxing Fan Button *While Supplies Last*

Please Allow 1-4 Weeks for Delivery

Send To: Quest Marketing, 5555 Zuni St SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

THE RING BOXING ALMANAC



In addition to this year's edition, limited quantities of the *The 1996 Ring Boxing Almanac* are still available. Send a check or money order for $7 (postage included) to: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Please check issue(s) desired; I have enclosed $7 as payment in full:

☐ 1996 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 1997 Ring Boxing Almanac

NAME_____

ADDRESS _____

_____ APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

In all countries outside the U.S., please add $2 for every issue to be sent airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4484/03-97

Hernandez vs. Hernandez

(Continued from page 53)

"Carlos just needs a bit more timing on his shots," said Steward. "But he showed his talent. He was up against maybe the best technician in boxing."

"Genaro was always like that in the gym—well-conditioned, and he throws great shots," said Carlos. "I'm not going to train with him anymore. He's just learning too much. I didn't know he was that smart."

But it was said in jest, naturally. A moment later, Carlos said he hoped to help Genaro train for a unification bout with IBF champ Arturo Gatti. Nothing unusual about that. Fighters always want to challenge the guy who can bring them the biggest possible purse, and it seemed everyone in the Genaro camp had Gatti on their mind. It's a great matchup, if only the money guys would let it happen. But Gatti appears headed toward a lightweight campaign, and Genaro should stay where he works best—at 130 pounds. The purses reported for Hernandez vs. Hernandez were $200,000 for Genaro, $30,000 for Carlos.

Just before the fight, Carlos and his corner, to show their respect, privately presented Genaro with an engraved medallion commemorating his enduring reign as a champion.

"I gave it to him to make him soft," joked Carlos.

"No, no, I really appreciate it," Genaro said. "No one's ever done anything like that for me before."

The gesture was nice, but at the opening bell, Carlos rushed him like a rhino. Genaro, smiling through his beaten face, shrugged. That's boxing.

"What I learned most of all from Carlos," Genaro said, "is to handle his toughness. It's helped me many times."

Especially against Carlos. ■

Ivan Goldman is The Ring's West Coast correspondent.

YOU CAN LEARN TO BOX!

With Kenny Weldon America's #1 Boxing Teacher and Trainer

- 316 Golden Glove Champions
- 51 Texas State Amateur Champions
- 17 National Amateur Champions
- 3 Pan American Medalists
- 2 Olympians
- Cornered 19 World Title Fights

Buy The Newest Videotape Training Series On Boxing!

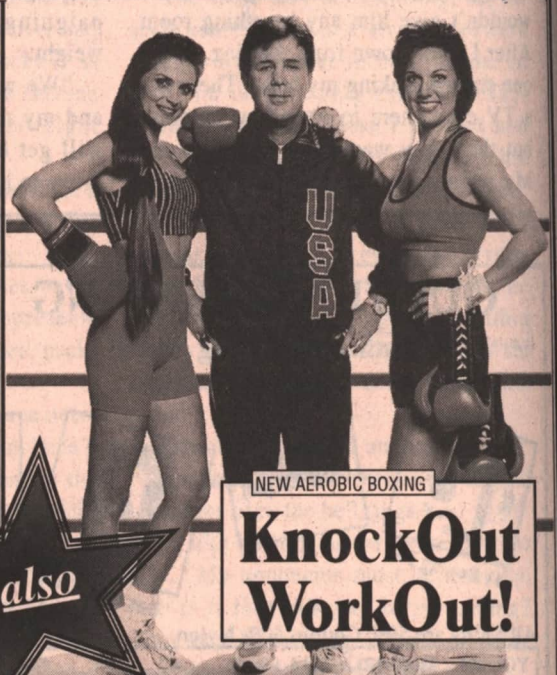
TAPE #1 BASIC FUNDAMENTALS
Wrapping Hands, Stance, Footwork, Left Jab, Right Cross, Left Hook, Upper Cuts, Cut-Off Punches
$24.95 (59 MIN.)

TAPE #2 ROADWORK/FLOORWORK
Rhythm and Coordination Exercises, How To Hit Heavy Bags, How to Hit Double End Bags, How To Jump Rope, Range and Distance
$24.95 (57 MIN.)

TAPE #3 DEFENSIVE MANEUVERS
Reaction and Counter Punching, Exercise Program, Defensive Moves, Warm Up Workout
$24.95 (55 MIN.)

TAPE #4 ADVANCED TECHNIQUES
Fighting On The Ropes, How To Pivot & Work The Corners, Bout Strategies & Influencing Officials, How And When To Turn Pro, Management & Contracts
$24.95 (57 MIN.)

For five years Kenny served as balance and technique teacher for Lou Duva's Main Events Stable–working with **Evander Holyfield, Mike McCallum and Vinny Pazienza (1984-1988)**



also

NEW AEROBIC BOXING

KnockOut WorkOut!

NAME_____ PH.# _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP _____

YOU CAN LEARN TO BOX ○ TAPE 1 ○ TAPE 2 ○ TAPE 3 $24.95 ea. ○ TAPE 4 ○ SET OF FOUR TAPES $89.95

KNOCKOUT WORKOUT ○ TAPE 1 ○ TAPE 2 $19.95 ea. ○ SET OF TWO TAPES $34.95

METHOD OF PAYMENT ☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ VISA ☐ M.C.

CARD #_____ EXP. _____

SIGNATURE _____

SEND $3 PER TAPE ($6 PER TAPE OUTSIDE THE U.S.) FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING TO: VIDEO FITNESS, P.O. BOX 6309 PASADENA, TEXAS 77506. TX. RESIDENCE ADD 8.25% SALES TAX. AVAILABLE IN V.H.S. ONLY. ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS DELIVERY. ORDER BY PHONE: (713) 946-9531

COMPLETE VIDEOTAPE TRAINING SERIES

TAPE 1 - BASICS
ROUND 1: 4-Phase Exercises
ROUND 2: Strength Exercises
ROUND 3: Stance & Rhythm
ROUND 4: Line Exercises
ROUND 5: Jumps & Step-Ups
approx. 60 min. $19.95

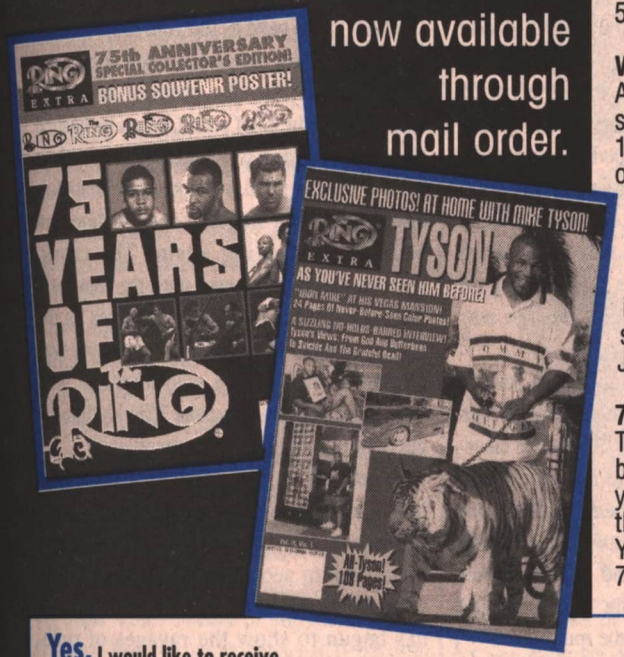
TAPE 2 - INTERMEDIATE
ROUND 6: Heavy Bag
ROUND 7: Double End Bag
ROUND 8: Jump Rope
ROUND 9: Speed Bag
ROUND 10: Hand Pads
approx. 60 min. $19.95

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!

DID YOU GET

SPECIAL ISSUES?

Previously sold only on newsstands, these special issues of THE RING are now available through mail order.



MUHAMMAD ALI
Tracing the career of "The Greatest," from beginning to end. Complete text and more than 200 classic photographs of each of Ali's 61 pro fights. Plus, how Ali would have fared against all-time greats Johnson, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano, and Tyson. And a farewell tribute by Steve Farhood.

FAMOUS FIGHTS
Our editors dip into the most extensive boxing photo file in the world to bring you 18 of the greatest fights of all-time. You'll be ringside for all the action and drama, from Louis-Schmeling to Douglas-Tyson. Each fight is accompanied by a quote from a famous eyewitness.

DRAMATIC PHOTOS OF ... BOXING'S GREATEST MOMENTS
Never before has one magazine contained such a collection of photos: simply, the greatest ever. The bloodbaths, the unforgettable epics, the great grudge wars, these photos, accompanied by descriptive blurbs, capture the most incredible fistic moments of all-time.

SUPERSTARS, SUPER RIVALRIES, SUPER BRAWLS
A unique look at the thrilling history of boxing, focusing in on words and photos on 14 of the sport's all-time superstars, 10 of its super rivalries, and 12 of its most brutal super brawls. Once again, THE RING pores through its vast files to bring back to life the cherished moments of boxing's past.

BOXING'S BLOODIEST BRAWLS
Celebrate the carnage. From disfiguring bareknuckle slugfests to the slam-bang action of today, boxers often suffer appalling facial damage in pursuit of victory. Here for the first time in one magazine are 50 graphic photos that capture the ring's goriest bloodbaths.

WINNER AND NEW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION
A detailed, pictorial look at every title-changing heavyweight bout since John L. Sullivan became the last bareknuckle champion in 1882. Readers will journey, fight by fight, through the rich pageant of heavyweight history. The next best thing to being there.

MIKE TYSON—AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM
Tyson welcomes THE RING to his Las Vegas mansion for a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse into his personal life. The 108-page issue includes more than 30 never-before-seen color photos, an exclusive one-on-one interview, a fight-by-fight review, and a story by Joe Frazier revealing how he'd have beaten "Iron Mike."

75 YEARS OF THE RING
The official souvenir magazine of THE RING's 75th Anniversary celebration traces the history of the Sweet Science during THE RING years, 1922-1997. THE RING reviews its annual selections of Fight of the Year, Fighter of the Year, Upset of the Year, and Round of the Year. Also presented are THE RING's nominees for the best of the last 75 years in nine categories.

Yes, I would like to receive THE RING specials and have enclosed a check or money order for $7, payable to London Publishing Co., for each issue I am ordering (shipping and handling included).

- ☐ Muhammad Ali
- ☐ Famous Fights
- ☐ Greatest Photos
- ☐ Superstars
- ☐ Bloodbaths
- ☐ Heavyweight Champions
- ☐ Mike Tyson—At Home
- ☐ 75 Years Of The Ring

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co.
Box 910,
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. ____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Prices apply in the U.S. only. All other countries please add $1.50 per magazine.
International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4504/05-97

Foreman

(Continued from page 21)

without losing your self-respect.

Much of Foreman's improbable comeback had been like fiction, though, so perhaps it was fitting that the end was, too. After spending the better part of 12 rounds chasing Briggs, Foreman listened, without expression, to ring announcer Michael Buffer award the majority decision to his opponent.

No one seemed more surprised to hear the result than Briggs, who remarked in the ring before the decision was announced that "It was close, but he ... I don't know." At that moment, he stopped, and the scores were read, leading him to change his conclusion after judges Larry Layton and Calvin Claxton voted for him, 117-113 and 116-112, respectively. Steve Weisfeld scored the fight a draw, 114-114, but most others had Foreman winning comfortably. THE RING had Foreman a 116-112 winner.

Briggs was thus handed what was touted as the linear heavyweight championship, meaning the one Foreman won from Michael Moorer in '94 and never lost in the ring. It is, at least according to some, the same title once held by the great John L. Sullivan, if you go back far enough.

Just over three years ago, Foreman knocked Moorer stiff with one right hand to the chin. He has not lost since, and because of that, he entered the ring to meet the 25-year-old Briggs insisting he was the only real heavyweight champion of the world. According to the people who run boxing, however, he wasn't, which is as simple an explanation of what's wrong with the sport as anything.

Since winning the WBA and IBF versions from Moorer, Foreman had won 12-round decisions over Axel Schulz, Crawford Grimsley, and Lou Savarese (admittedly, not exactly "Murderer's Row"), and also picked up something called the WBU title without asking for it. Yet when he faced Briggs, Big George had no recognized titles to defend because he had refused to fight the various challengers dictated by the WBA and IBF and declined to pay the WBU a dime of sanction fees, since he never wanted its title in the first place.

"There was a time when I was obsessed with becoming a Boy Scout," Foreman said before the fight. "Then it was the Boy Scouts and the Explorers. Then one day, I didn't want that anymore. There was a time when I pursued the WBC and the IBF, but I've outgrown that, too. I'm not interested in that anymore. You want to do whatever you want to do to, not what someone else tells you to do. The last thing you want to do is to be an old man and look back and say, 'I wish I had stood up for myself.'

"No one has beaten George Foreman in the ring. No one has taken my title. Nobody's beaten me, so there you are. I dare you to write that. Since I became a champion, nobody has whipped me. Nobody has knocked me down. Nobody has bitten my ear off. Nobody has even cussed me out. I'm still the champ. The guys that are around today [meaning reigning champions Evander Holyfield, who won a unanimous, 12-round decision over Foreman in 1991, and Lennox Lewis] don't want to fight me. They've shown that. I learned as a teenager you can't make someone fight you that doesn't want to fight you. You can push them. You can shove them. You can insult them. But if they don't want to fight you, they're not gonna fight you."

Briggs, to his credit, at least tried to do that and also offered Foreman an immediate rematch if he wanted one, perhaps safe in the knowledge Foreman was unlikely to accept.

"George has the crowd behind him," said Briggs, 30-1 (24). "That's why they reacted the way they did. George was coming on strong. It was a tough fight. George was being very persistent."

Indeed he was, appearing to win four of the first six rounds, even though the judges scored those rounds 4-2 for Briggs. He clearly dominated the final three rounds as well. Yet even in round 12, when he came out popping his jab into Briggs' face until his opponent was bloodied and he was in full retreat, only one of the three judges (Weisfield) gave Foreman the round.

"If you win eight of the 12 rounds, you're the winner,' said veteran trainer Angelo Dundee, who worked Foreman's corner and seemed shocked by the decision.

Briggs, 227, started quickly, landing his jab, circling his ponderous opponent, and showing more aggression than most experts had expected. He finally grinned at Foreman midway through the first round, but that stopped early in the second when the two-time former world champion got close to him and stayed there. Repeatedly walking Briggs down, Foreman, 260, landed his jab solidly between Briggs' gloves and snapped his head back. Suddenly, the product of Brooklyn's tough Brownsville section seemed confused and unable to answer back.

Sensing the situation, Foreman turned up the pressure in round three, battering his adversary with several scorching combinations and driving his head back with more jabs. Briggs punched less and less, and walked backward to the ropes more and more as the rounds moved along. Foreman, meanwhile, kept the pressure on until the middle rounds when he slowed noticeably.

Although Briggs did not take full advantage of the situation, he did enough to win several of those rounds and make the fight competitive until round eight, when Foreman sensed it was time to come on again. He hurt Briggs several times with solid right hands, but did most of his damage with a short left that seemed to quake Briggs all the way to his shoes for the first time. Briggs weathered the storm and fought back, landing two solid right hands to the body and an authoritative, short left to the head as the 10th round ended.

Briggs' flurry seemed to catch Foreman's attention, but little else changed until midway through the final round, when he bashed Briggs with a shot to the face that brought a gush of blood from his nose. Foreman followed up with a stunning combination that had Briggs rocking again. The crowd hollered Foreman's name until the final bell. Soon, they were hollering expletives as the final chapter of George Foreman's story was written by two judges who might as well have been Stephen King and John Updike for the fictitious ending they came up with.

Clearly, Foreman's punching ability has begun to slip, as evidenced by the fact the combinations he hit Briggs with would have knocked him senseless a few years back, when his timing was better. Foreman's face has begun to show the ravages of time, swelling around the eyes every time he fights now. So maybe it is time for Foreman to go, regardless of what injury the judges may have done to him in Atlantic City. Perhaps it will be easier to leave the stage this way, cloaked in the injustice that the sport so often creates. Certainly, that is much preferred to seeing him leave on his back, as many great champions have.

If we have indeed seen the last of Foreman, we will miss his ability to drive a

jab into the back of an opponent's face. We will miss his relentlessness in the ring, the same predatory instincts he showed all night against Briggs, walking ever forward, stalking Briggs in a way the young kid had never known before. But most of all, we will miss the wide grin, the wild stories, and the glorious con job that, unlike so many others, came with a punch and a punchline. Unlike guys like Bruce Seldon and Frank Bruno and too many others who talked the talk but couldn't walk the walk, Foreman came to fight right to the end. He may not have saved boxing in 1987 when he launched his comeback, but he propped it up when it was tilting badly, and he deserved better than what the sport gave him in the end, which was a screw job.

Yet Foreman even managed to transform that into something positive. Perhaps that was the real magic of Foreman, and it was still there at the end when he left the way he'd come in—smiling.

"I'm not at all bitter about anything," Foreman said. "When you've done enough, you sit around wondering what's left to do. This could go on for the rest of my life. Chasing young guys. Young guys should be chasing young guys. I planned, win, lose, or draw, to bring my career to an end."

As he spoke, Foreman adjusted the sunglasses that covered his swollen eyes, a half-smile on his face. Someone in the crowd suddenly realized this was a resignation speech and hollered: "The people won't let you go, George!"

The old man smiled a poignant smile at that and left them calling for more, the way a good con man always does.

"The oldest heavyweight ever to win the title was 45," the old heavyweight said. "If some guy breaks that record, I'm coming back. You've heard of one more for the Gipper? For the right price, it'll be one more for the mutual fund."

The sadness of what had just been done to Foreman dissolved at that moment. He had fought the good fight and left them laughing, running the last con as perfectly as he had all of the others. For that, and so much more, George Foreman deserves to have his hand lifted one last time. ■

Ron Borges covers boxing for the Boston Globe and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

THE RING PRESENTS

BIG FIGHT COLOR SPECIALS

Relive the excitement of some of boxing's biggest bouts of the last few years with "The Ring Presents Big Fight Color Specials." These collector's specials include giant 22" x 32" super centerfolds of heavyweight defenses by Evander Holyfield (vs. George Foreman), Michael Moorer (vs. George Foreman), Frank Bruno (vs. Mike Tyson), and Holyfield again (vs. Mike Tyson).

ONLY $5
Includes postage and handling
$17.95 FOR ALL FOUR!

Each issue includes a giant 22" x 32" SUPER CENTERFOLD FIGHT POSTER

Make check or money order payable to:

London Publishing Co.
Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

The RING PRESENTS

Check the issue(s) desired. Enclose $5 for each issue or $17.95 for all four.

☐ HOLYFIELD vs. FOREMAN(#1) ☐ BRUNO vs. TYSON (#8)
☐ MOORER vs. FOREMAN (#7) ☐ HOLYFIELD vs. TYSON (#9)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

For all orders except the United States you must add $1 for every issue to be sent by surface mail, or $2 for every issue to be sent by air mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only on foreign orders. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4482/02-97

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney—The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Also: Tony Ayala Jr., Baltazar brothers, Pedroza, Larry Hazzard, Joe Frazier.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitez: The King Of Style Conquers Duran. Color Pinup: Saoul Mamby. Interview: Dwight Braxton. Also: Art Frias, Saad Muhammad, Achievement '81.

Oct. 1982: Larry Holmes Turns Back The Cooney Challenge. Color Pinup: Davey Moore. Interview: Tex Cobb. Also: Alexi Arguello, Bobby Czyz, Ray Mancini, Lupe Pintor, most powerful men in boxing.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Interview: Hilmer Kenty. Also: Don Curry, Pryor-Arguello I, Pedroza-Taylor, Roger Mayweather.

May 1983: Hector Camacho: "Ray Mancini Will Be An Easy Fight." Color Pinup: Michael Dokes. Also: Spinks-Qawi, John Tate, Year In Review.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

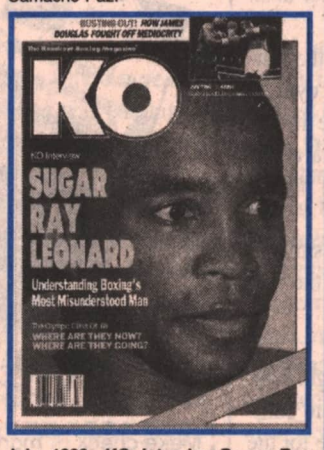
Jan. 1990: Sugar Ray Leonard Braces For Duran: 10 Crucial Questions. Color Pinup: Gilberto Roman. Interview: Razor Ruddock. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Harold Knight, Daniel Zaragoza, Kennedy McKinney, Marlon Starling.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

March 1990: Evander Holyfield Passes A Surprise Test ... But Can He Give Tyson A Fight? Color Pinup: Antonio Esparragoza. Interview: Seth Abraham. Also: Cooney-Foreman, colorful characters.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.



July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

April 1991: The Ali Chronicles: The Greatest Show On Earth. Color Pinup: George Foreman. Interview: Tommy Morrison. Also: Tyson-Stewart, Ruddock, best-kept secrets.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Aug. 1993: Experts Pick The Winner Of Chavez-Whitaker. Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Foreman-Morrison Preview, Evander Holyfield, Sergei Artemiev, Joe Frazier, best of KO Interviews, Michael Carbajal.

Nov. 1993: Superstars At The Crossroads: Pernell Whitaker, Evander Holyfield, Terry Norris. Color Pinup: John-John Molina. Interview: Al Certo. Also: Zack Padilla, Whitaker-Chavez, Norris-Waters, Holyfield-Stewart, Morrison-Foreman.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

Jan. 1994: Outrage At The Alamodome: "Sweet Pea" Shafted! Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Kennedy McKinney. Also: James Toney, book of lists, M.A. Barrera.

Feb. 1994: Lennox Lewis Defends Against Frank Bruno—And The Winner Is ... Tommy Morrison. Color Pinup: Charles Murray. Also: Jeremy Williams, fights we'd like to see, People's Choice Tourney.

March 1994: Holyfield-Bowe II: Why It Was Different This Time. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Also: Morrison-Bentt, Thomas Hearns, Don King, Michael Carbajal, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1994: Oscar De La Hoya—He Wants It All And He Wants It Now. Color Pinup: Anaclet Wamba. Interview: Simon Brown. Also: Tom Johnson, J.C. Chavez, Julio Borboa.

June 1994: Frankie Randall Makes It Official! J.C. Chavez Is A Beaten Man. Color Pinup: Jose Luis Bueno. Also: Norris brothers, Felix Trinidad, Holyfield-Moorer preview, heroes to the stars.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

Oct. 1994: Randall Scandal: How Chavez Stole Back The Title. Color Pinup: Kevin Kelley. Also: Jesse James Leija, Romero & Tapia, who's who among heavyweights, Leonard Chronicles (part I).

Nov. 1994: KO Interview—Michael Moorer: "I'm Not Gonna Let Nobody Take My Manhood." Color Pinup: Ricardo Lopez. Also: Chris Eubank, Aaron Pryor, CBS, unification.

Dec. 1994: Boxing Comes Off The Floor ... And Looks Toward A Knockout Future. Color Pinup: Julio Borboa. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Arturo Gatti, Oliver McCall, MGM Grand.

March 1995: Big George: One For The Ageless! Color Pinup: Oliver McCall. Interview: Larry Holmes. Also: HBO vs. Showtime, boxers and the law.

May 1995: What It's Like To Get Beat Up By George Foreman: Three Victims Tell Their Stories. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Johnny Tapia. Also: Ricardo Lopez, Bernard Hopkins, Dana Rosenblatt.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

Winter 1995: Buster Mathis Jr.: "Tyson's An Ordinary Fighter." Color Pinup: Alejandro Gonzalez. Interview: Danny Romero. Plus: Tyson-McNeeley, Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Lonnie Bradley, Foreman trivia.

Feb. 1996: The Time Is Right! Bring It On, Tyson! Color Pinup: Bruce Seldon. Interview: James Toney. Plus: Bowe-Holyfield III, Lennox Lewis, Thomas Hearns, Quarry family.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

May 1996: De La Hoya, Bowe, Jones: What's Holding Back Boxing's Biggest Stars? Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Terry Norris. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Bobby Czyz, Frazier-Ali I.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Aug. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): An Inside Look At Team Tyson—*KO* Talks With Trainer Jay Bright. Color Pinup: Naseem Hamed. Interview: Jay Bright. Plus: 1946 vs. 1996, William Guthrie, middleweights, young heavyweights.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Oct. 1996: Ultimately Gory! Oscar Rips Through Chavez On His Way To Greatness. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Naseem Hamed, Jorge Paez.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

May 1997: Boxing's 10 Biggest Punchers. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Jay Larkin & Lou DiBella. Plus: Marco Antonio Barrera, Andrew Golota.

June 1997: Holyfield-Tyson II: Will It Be Different This Time? Color Pinup: Ricardo Lopez. Interview: Kostya Tszyu. Plus: De La Hoya-Whitaker, Dana Rosenblatt, military boxing.

July 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow: Who's Best? Color Pinup: Kostya Tszyu. Interview: Buster Douglas. Plus: Arturo Gatti, Sugar Ray Leonard, Naseem Hamed, Olympians.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match: Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: George Foreman, Ike Quartey, promoters.

Oct. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Montell Griffin. Plus: Robin Reid, Butterbean, Shannon Briggs.

☐ APR/82	☐ OCT/87	☐ DEC/90	☐ MAR/93	☐ JUN/96
☐ JUN/82	☐ NOV/87	☐ JAN/91	☐ MAY/93	☐ JUL/96
☐ OCT/82	☐ DEC/87	☐ FEB/91	☐ AUG/93	☐ AUG/96
☐ MAR/83	☐ FEB/88	☐ APR/91	☐ NOV/93	☐ SEP/96
☐ MAY/83	☐ MAY/88	☐ MAY/91	☐ DEC/93	☐ OCT/96
☐ JUN/83	☐ JUL/88	☐ JUN/91	☐ JAN/94	☐ NOV/96
☐ OCT/83	☐ AUG/88	☐ AUG/91	☐ FEB/94	☐ DEC/96
☐ AUG/84	☐ OCT/88	☐ SEP/91	☐ MAR/94	☐ WIN/96
☐ OCT/84	☐ JAN/89	☐ OCT/91	☐ MAY/94	☐ JAN/97
☐ NOV/84	☐ FEB/89	☐ NOV/91	☐ JUN/94	☐ FEB/97
☐ JAN/85	☐ SEP/89	☐ DEC/91	☐ JUL/94	☐ MAR/97
☐ FEB/85	☐ NOV/89	☐ JAN/92	☐ OCT/94	☐ MAY/97
☐ MAY/85	☐ JAN/90	☐ MAR/92	☐ NOV/94	☐ JUN/97
☐ JUL/85	☐ FEB/90	☐ MAY/92	☐ DEC/94	☐ JUL/97
☐ AUG/85	☐ MAR/90	☐ JUN/92	☐ MAR/95	☐ AUG/97
☐ DEC/85	☐ MAY/90	☐ JUL/92	☐ MAY/95	☐ SEP/97
☐ JAN/86	☐ JUN/90	☐ AUG/92	☐ JUN/95	☐ OCT/97
☐ JUL/86	☐ JUL/90	☐ SEP/92	☐ WIN/95	
☐ FEB/87	☐ SEP/90	☐ NOV/92	☐ FEB/96	
☐ MAY/87	☐ OCT/90	☐ DEC/92	☐ MAR/96	
☐ SEP/87	☐ NOV/90	☐ JAN/93	☐ MAY/96	

KO MAGAZINE

ONLY $5 EACH

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via boat mail, or $3 for every back issue to be sent via airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. *Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery*

In Case of a sellout indicate substitute choice _____

4545/06-97

Holyfield

(Continued from page 26)

But he isn't trying to bait Holyfield into another challenge. He had already done so. At the postfight press conference, Botha is not present. Holyfield is. Instead of talking about the fight that just ended, the only topic of conversation is the next one.

"I am here to vociferously proclaim that the great people of this world will soon bear witness to the culmination of what is certain to become the most glorious trilogy in the history of pugilism," King says from his pulpit. "On June 12, in the great Olympic city of Atlanta, the champion's hometown, 'Iron Mike' Tyson will go toe-to-toe with the gentleman seated before me: Evander 'The Real Deal' Holyfield."

Holyfield will receive $50 million, Tyson $35 million.

June 11: After the weigh-in, Tyson speaks to the media for the first time since the fight was announced and guarantees a convincing victory. "You all saw what I was doing to him in that last fight," he says. "I could have won, but I just snapped. I will win tomorrow night. He'll get beat up bad."

The Caesars Palace sports book lists Holyfield as a 2-to-1 favorite.

Showtime/SET executive producer Jay Larkin predicts the pay-per-view will shatter the all-time record by reaching over 40 million homes.

June 12: Just as he did in Tyson's first comeback stretch, Holyfield exposes his challenger. While Tyson appeared dominant against his trialhorses, he looks like Holyfield's sparring partner tonight.

It is apparent as soon as the opening bell rings that patience is Tyson's strategy. He picks his spots, carefully throwing each punch. With less than 30 seconds to go in the round, Tyson lands a devastating right uppercut. But Holyfield does not step back. In fact, the champion closes the round with a left hook to the body followed by another left to the head.

Tyson realizes once again Holyfield's confidence cannot be broken and comes unglued between rounds. He charges from his stool and unleashes a wild flurry of bombs that cannot find the mark. In his haste, Tyson leaves one opening too many. Holyfield hurts Tyson with a right hook flush on the chin. Tyson staggers backward, and Holyfield continues with a jab and an overhand right that send Tyson into the ropes and down to his left knee with 1:30 left. Referee Joe Cortez allows Tyson to continue, but Holyfield pounds him back to the mat with a right to the temple. Tyson cannot beat the 10-count.

"I hope that settles it once and for all," Holyfield tells Ferdie Pacheco.

Lewis, sitting at ringside, seethes: "As long as I'm breathing, Holyfield will never be the best. Everyone knows I destroyed him. He's nothing."

June 13: The press calls for Holyfield to accept a rematch with Lewis and denounces Tyson as a never-was.

November 6: Holyfield takes care of three matters at once by defending his WBA and WBC belts as well as staying in shape with an easy decision over Croatian Zeljko Mavrovic. Holyfield scores a flash knockdown in the fourth, but Mavrovic covers up for much of the duration, often holding to avoid the champion's leather.

Lewis catches the action from the front row. His confidence and bluster are boosted by the fact that Holyfield does not record a knockout. "He's washed up," says Lewis, who has kayoed all three of his opponents since his loss to Holyfield. "He's afraid of me. How else do you explain him fighting these dullards?"

January 18, 2000: King makes the announcement Lewis and the boxing community has awaited for nearly two years: Holyfield-Lewis II will take place. "This will be the most triumphant sporting event of the 21st century," King exclaims. The event will come off May 27 in Las Vegas at the recently opened Caesars Palace arena. Holyfield opens as a 3-1 favorite.

April 11: The line, which based on Holyfield's last outing has slightly tilted toward Lewis, experiences a major shift when the champion gets floored by sparring partner and Mike Tyson look-alike Cliff Couser. Wise guys storm the betting windows. The fight is reduced to a pick-'em.

May 27: Unlike their first encounter, Lewis takes the fight to Holyfield. It is evident trainer Emanuel Steward has decided upon the same take-no-prisoners strategy imparted against Andrew Golota nearly three years ago. Lewis' aggressiveness forces Holyfield to cover for much of the early rounds. Judges Jerry Roth, Chuck Giampa, and Anek Hongtongkam each give Lewis the first three rounds.

But Lewis begins to tire in the sixth, and Holyfield steps up his attack. A ripping right cross buckles Lewis' knees with 27 seconds left in the round, but he doesn't go down.

Holyfield starts quickly in the seventh, and an accidental headbutt initiated by Lewis opens a gash on Lewis' left brow. Lewis paws at his eye as blood flows into it, and referee Mitch Halpern pauses the action so ringside physician Flip Homansky can observe the wound. Homansky lets the fight continue, but Holyfield senses the moment. He fires two straight rights that land cleanly and send Lewis backpedalling into his own corner. The champion closes and digs hard to the body before landing a left hook that rattles Lewis' jaw, sending him to a knee with 52 seconds left. The challenger stands up at the count of eight and, after getting the go-ahead from Halpern, shuffles toward the center of the ring. He walks into a buzzsaw. Holyfield throws punches from every angle, landing at will until Lewis falls on the seat of his trunks. He beats the count once again, but his eyes cannot focus. Halpern stops the fight with 20 seconds left in the seventh.

Holyfield is victorious once again. More than six years after being told he could never box again because of a cardiac malady, Holyfield demonstrates he has more heart than any boxer around. Pacheco sticks a microphone in the champ's face and asks: "What's next?"

"That's it," he grins. "There are no more challenges to conquer in the ring. It's time to settle down with my family and devote the rest of my life to God."

Unlike most boxers' retirement speeches, this one seems sincere.

May 28: Media around the world hail Holyfield as an all-time great, to be mentioned in the same breath as Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali. ■

Tim Graham covers boxing for the Las Vegas Sun and is a frequent contributor to this magazine.

The Ring Sportswear Collection

The Ring Tradition Continues ...

Over the past 75 years, *The Ring* has established a tradition of unsurpassed excellence. That tradition continues with *The Ring* Sportswear Collection, featuring the highest-quality apparel available!

BASEBALL CAP: You'll be the envy of your friends when you wear this sporty baseball cap. Constructed of 100% cotton, this cap features *The Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline embroidered on the front panel. The adjustable cotton strap-back allows for a custom fit. Available in black only. One size fits all. $15.95

CREW NECK SWEAT SHIRT: When it comes to sweat shirts, this is the undisputed champion. This high-quality sweat is 90% cotton/10% polyester and is definitely in the heavyweight division of sweat shirts. Features include an extra full cut, body side panels, and set-in sleeves. *The Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline are beautifully embroidered in three colors on the left front chest. Available in black or gray. $35.50 = M, L, XL; $39.50 = XXL

T-SHIRT: You'll look like a world champ when wearing *The Ring* T-shirt. This quality "T" is the standard by which all others are judged. Our 100% preshrunk cotton shirt features an embroidered three-color *Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline. Available in black only. $14.95 = M, L, XL; $18.95 = XXL

BASEBALL JERSEY: Talk about sporty! *The Ring* baseball jersey scores big with a two-color combination...gray with red trim and red buttons or gray with black trim and black buttons. This 100% all-cotton, button-down jersey features an embroidered three-color—red, white, & gold—*Ring* logo and "The Bible Of Boxing" tagline. $29.95 = M, L, XL

Yes, I would like to order the item(s) indicated at right. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

☐ MasterCard _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ____/____ MO / YR

Signature: _____

	QUANTITY	COLOR	SIZE	COST
Baseball Shirt		Red		
Baseball Shirt		Black		
T-Shirt		Black		
Baseball Cap		Black	—	
Sweatshirt		Gray		
Sweatshirt		Black		

SHIPPING & HANDLING: For orders from within the United States add $3 for each item ordered. For orders outside the United States, add $7 for each item ordered.

Sub-total

Shipping & Handling

TOTAL ENCLOSED

SEND YOUR ORDERS TO: London Publishing Co.
Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Foreign orders: International money orders in U.S. funds only.

4513/04-97

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of November 1997, the WBC as of November 1997, and the IBF as of October 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Evander Holyfield (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Michael Moorer (USA)	**12**	**–**	**C**
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	6
Ray Mercer (USA)	2	–	5
John Ruiz (USA)	3	7	–
David Tua (NZ)	4	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	5	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	6	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	7	12	–
Buster Douglas (USA)	8	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	9	–	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	13	3	3
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	4	9
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	6	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (USA)	–	8	10
Jerry Ballard (USA)	–	9	–
Adilson Rodriguez (BRA)	–	10	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Francois Botha (SA)	15	11	2
Obed Sullivan (USA)	–	–	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	24	–	7
Chris Byrd (USA)	18	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Uriah Grant (USA)	**17**	**–**	**C**
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	1	2	–
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	3	4	12
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	4	12	3
Torsten May (GER)	5	6	7
Nate Miller (USA)	6	3	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	7	10	–
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	8	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	9	–	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Adopho Washington (USA)	–	5	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	7	5
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	8	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	20	9	4
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	8
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	–	9
Juan Gomez (CUB)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Lou Del Valle (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
William Guthrie (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	5	–
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	2	–	6
Richard Frazier (USA)	3	4	9
Merqui Sosa (DR)	4	7	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	5	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	6	3	10
Ole Klemetsen (NOR)	7	6	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	8	–	–
Fabian Chancelay (ARG)	9	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	10	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	3
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	16	2	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	–	8	12
Richard Hall (USA)	29	9	8
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Crawford Ashley (GB)	15	–	4
Will Taylor (USA)	26	–	5
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	7

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Frank Liles (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Charles Brewer (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	2	1	5
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Herol Graham (GB)	4	4	–
Dean Francis (GB)	5	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	6	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	7	11	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	8	3	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	9	–	–
Thulane Malinga (SA)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	15	2	3
Bruno Girard (FRA)	24	5	–
Francis Dean (GB)	–	6	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	13	7	–
Leif Keiski (SWE)	–	8	–
Mark Baker (GB)	25	9	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	10	6
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	16	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	12	–	4
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	7
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	–	8
Danny Trevino (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	–	–
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	2	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	5	–
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	6	–	–
Otis Grant (USA)	7	–	–
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	8	–	11
Kevin Palmer (USA)	9	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	10	7	7
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
William Joppy (USA)	11	3	10
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	4	–
Brian Barbosa (USA)	12	6	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	20	8	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	–	9	8
Glen Johnson (USA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Antoine Echols (USA)	16	–	5
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	13	–	6
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Raul Marquez (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Felix Trinidad (PR)	1	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	2	3	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	3	–	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	4	12	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	5	7	–
Robert West (USA)	6	–	–
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	7	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	8	–	8
Keith Mullings (USA)	9	–	12
Kookyui Song (KOR)	10	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	11	1	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	13	2	3
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	4	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	23	5	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	6	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	8	9
Jason Papillion (USA)	22	9	4
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	19	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	11	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Ike Quartey (GHA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Felix Trinidad (PR)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	5	1
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	6	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	3	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	4	–	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	5	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Edwin Rosario (PR)	7	–	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	8	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	9	10	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	2	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	19	8	–
Juan Negron (PR)	27	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2

Pernell Whitaker (USA)	–	–	3
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	9
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	5	4	5
Reggie Green (USA)	6	7	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	7	–	–
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	8	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	9	3	2
Alfonso Sanchez (MEX)	10	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	11	5	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	6	3
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	8	6
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	–	9	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	4
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	12	–	8
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	9
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	26	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	2	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	4	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	5	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	6	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	7	3	–
Marco Rudolph (GER)	8	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	9	–	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	10	8	4
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	1	–
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	14	2	2
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	4	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	5	7
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	12	6	11
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	7	9
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	9	5
Colin Dunne (GB)	–	10	–
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	6
Acelino Freitas (BRA)	15	–	8
Wilson Palacio (COL)	26	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Garcia (USA)	1	6	1
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	7	–
Jesus Chavez (USA)	3	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	4	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	5	–	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	6	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	7	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Saul Duran (MEX)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	3	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	5	4
Harold Warren (USA)	19	8	2
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	9	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	–	10	–
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	5
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	27	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	12	–	8
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	9
Tautoma Yasuda (JAP)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	2	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	12	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	4	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	6	–	–
Steve Robinson (GB)	7	–	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	8	9	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	9	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	10	3	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	4
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	5	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	28	6	5
Victor Polo (COL)	–	7	3
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	26	8	8
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	7
Juan Marquez (USA)	–	–	9
Edward Barrios (COL)	21	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	2	2	8
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	3	–	6
Spencer Oliver (GB)	4	6	5
Welcome Ncita (SA)	5	–	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	6	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	7	–	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	8	4	2
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	9	–	–
John Lowey (IRE)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	1	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	14	3	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	5	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	7	–
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	12	8	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	22	9	–
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	25	10	12
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	11	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	7
Esteban Morales (COL)	29	–	9
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Paul Ayala (USA)	1	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	3	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	4	–	8
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	5	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	6	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	7	–	6
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	11	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	9	–	–
Masahiko Nakamura (JAP)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	5	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	11	7	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	14	8	–
Sahoiu Phaisarn Gym (THA)	–	9	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	21	10	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	19	–	3
Juan Sanchez (COL)	–	–	4
John Michael Johnson (USA)	12	–	5
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	–	–	7
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	3	4	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	4	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	6	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	7	–	–
Young Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	9	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	10	9	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	3	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	30	5	–
Andy Agosto (PR)	–	7	4
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	8	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	16	10	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	7
Solo Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	15	12	9
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	C	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	2	3	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	3	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	4	8	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	5	4	1
David Guerault (FRA)	6	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	7	–	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	8	7	–
Adey Lewis (GB)	9	–	5
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	10	–	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	6	3
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	9	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	18	10	7
Vacant	–	–	2
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	4
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	12	–	8
Ilido Julio (COL)	–	–	9
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

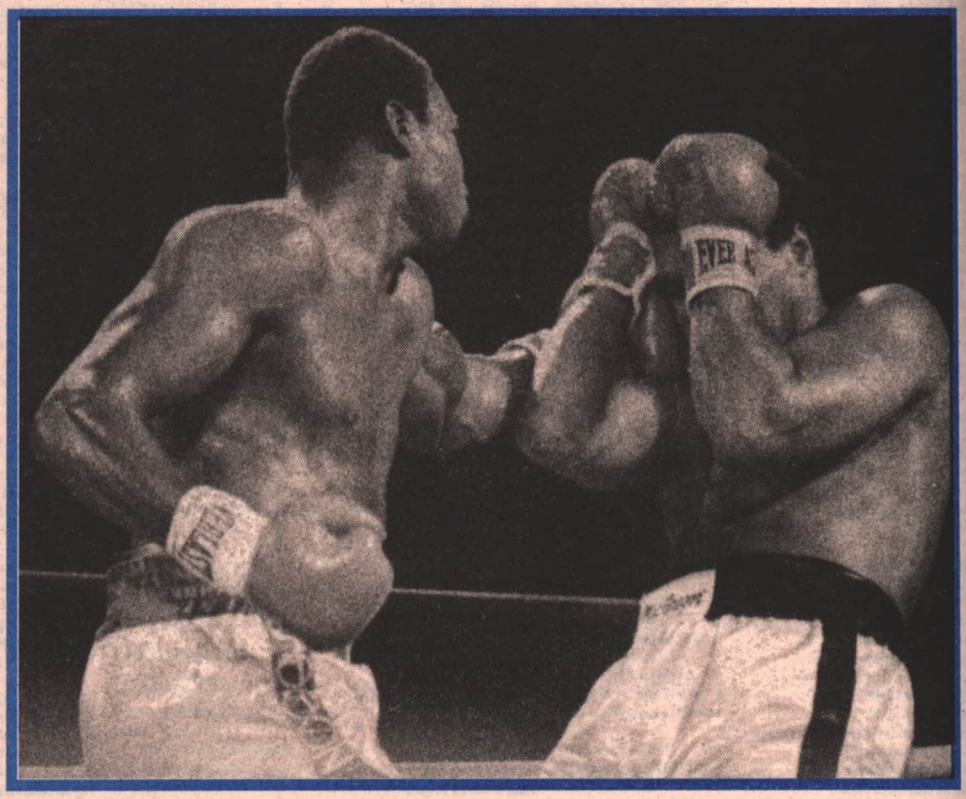
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	–
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	12	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	3	2	11
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	6	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	8	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	9	7	–
Sandre Oviedo (ARG)	10	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	3	4
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	4	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	12	5	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	16	8	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	9	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	2
Vacant	–	–	3
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	5
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	6
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	7
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	8
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	–	9
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	2	–	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	3	–	9
Kermin Guardia (COL)	4	8	–
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	5	–	12
Lindi Memani (SA)	6	11	–
Domingo Guillen (DR)	7	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	8	–	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	10	10	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	3	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	–	4	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	22	5	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	7	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	–	–	2
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	25	–	5
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	6
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	7
Boy Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

THE TRAGEDY OF

Or Why Does Every Boxer Feel Compelled To Answer The Bell Like a Firehorse Retired To A Milk Wagon?



Holmes beat Ali so convincingly in their October 1980 fight that most observers thought "The Greatest" would wise up and retire. Unfortunately, the lure of the ring and of another big purse encouraged Ali to overstay his welcome.

By Barney Nagler

(Editor's note: This is a condensed version.)

A twice-told tale which used to make the rounds told of a lady who confided to her psychiatrist that her husband was concerned because she liked pancakes. The psychiatrist said he could see nothing abnormal about this, adding that he liked pancakes himself.

"Of course," the lady said. "They're wonderful. I have three drawers and seven trunks full of them."

Among other instances of pushing a good thing too far is the persistent way in which boxers keep fighting after their primes. This is a human failing, to be sure, because people on the brink of retirement often are reluctant to hand in their papers. Despite all reports to the contrary, fighters *are* people.

Some weeks ago, in one of those lapses that

From THE RING, April 1982

BOXING COMEBACKS

The day after his loss to Berbick, Ali told reporters that his 39-year-old body was telling him to retire. After two failed comeback fights, it was clear that Ali should have hung up the gloves for good after his 1978 rematch with Leon Spinks.

seem to overcome him too often, Muhammad Ali made a return to the ring, though he had not fought in 11 months. Going in with Trevor Berbick in Nassau, he was, in another man's phrase, "pitiful and an impostor."

How sad it must have been to witness this 10-round travesty, though those who made the long journey to ringside did so voluntarily. They should have known better. Just about a year earlier, Ali had been forced into retirement in the 11th round in a bout with Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. He had been less threatening than a parish priest.

On that unhappy occasion, even Ali's friends were warmed by the belief that the beating inflicted by Holmes would save Ali from further ridicule. But it turned out that he did not give a tinker's curse for advice. He forgot that he was only human and that, at 39 years of age, he was incapable of defeating even so moderate a heavyweight as Berbick.

There were many in the sparse crowd in Nassau who remembered the time when energy poured from Ali, when he would never assume a position in the ring that suggested actual repose, and even when he was stationary, his position was that of the crouched tiger, the coiled spring. But then it went out of him, and it was gone forever, and all knew it but Ali himself.

You will be told, if you ask, that most fighters go on beyond their time because of financial reasons. It happens to the best of them, even those who vow that they will not be caught in the monetary trap and will depart the scene when they no longer can raise their fists purposefully.

Joe Louis intended that his career should end on a high note. It did not, of course, though it rankled in the hearts of those who knew him and adored him, not the least of whom was a reporter who visited Louis on December 12, 1947, in the champion's apartment on Sugar Hill in Harlem.

Five nights before, Louis had been in a fight in Madison Square Garden. He had come away with his face misshapen, his left eye closed, and his pride diminished. He had been the heavyweight champion since June 22, 1937, when he had knocked out James J. Braddock in the eighth round in Chicago.

There had been a great shout in Comiskey Park when the crown had been placed on his head. But now, as he sat in his apartment on Sugar Hill and reflected on the latest episode of his career, a great quiet enveloped him. He was 33 years old, in the 11th year of his reign, but he felt older. His head had throbbed for many hours after Jersey Joe Walcott had finished hitting it, and the face he saw in the mirror was raw and unfamiliar.

The reporter was saying, "It was tough the other night, Joe."

"I made it tough," Louis said. "I saw openings I didn't use. Man gets old, he don't take advantage of them things as fast as he used to."

"How do you feel now?"

"Good."

"What will you do?"

"When?"

"About Walcott."

"Fight him again."

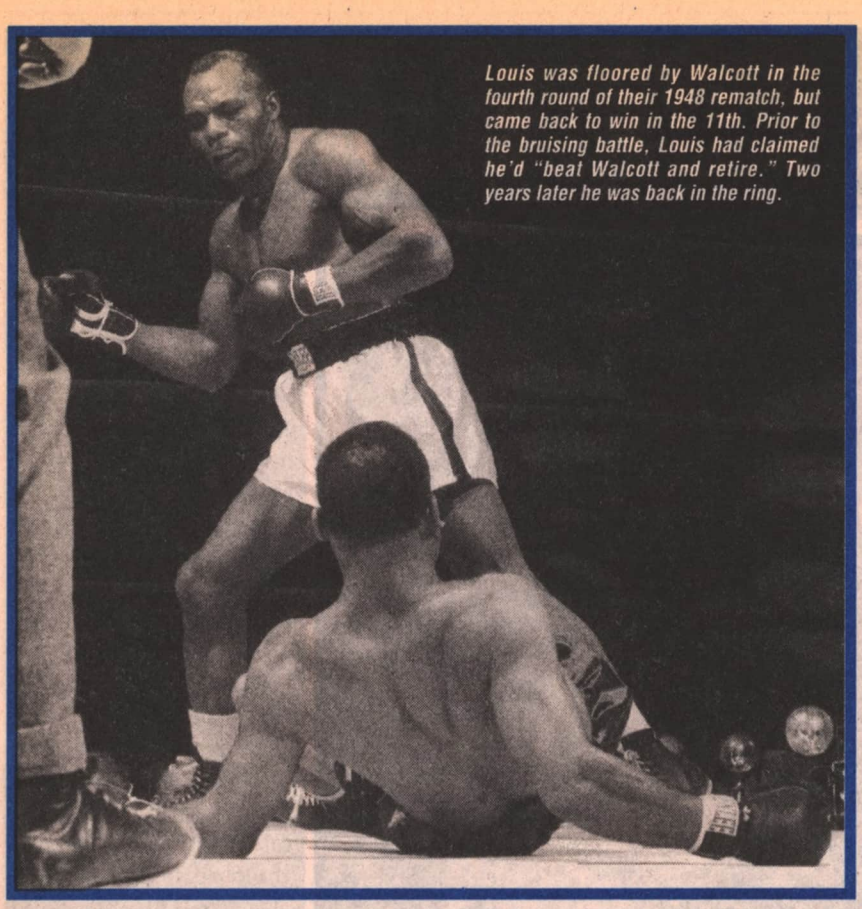
"And beat him?"

"I beat him Friday. Next time I'll knock him out."

As the reporter later wrote, Louis' voice was without firmness and his words lacked confidence.

"I'll beat Walcott and retire," Louis said. "It'll be my last fight."

It wasn't, of course. Louis intended it to be, but the problems that confront most old fighters confronted him after he flattened Walcott in 11 rounds. Shortly after his win he was back in the ring, trying to retrieve the title he had renounced, fighting



Louis was floored by Walcott in the fourth round of their 1948 rematch, but came back to win in the 11th. Prior to the bruising battle, Louis had claimed he'd "beat Walcott and retire." Two years later he was back in the ring.

against Ezzard Charles. He failed utterly. Charles hit the 36-year-old fighter at will. Louis bled early from facial lacerations, and Charles, respectful of the old champ, relented in his assault. After 15 rounds, the decision went to Charles.

A reporter later wrote, "The old fighter was a shambling hulk. He was cut above both eyes, one of which was shut tight by swelling. He could not see well enough to pull on his trousers. Friendly hands helped. Sugar Ray Robinson leaned down and put Joe's shoes on for him. The old champion was led out of the stadium by friends."

Before leaving, Louis said, "I enjoyed the fight and I want to thank you all. I did my best." Then, again, he said, "I'll never fight again."

Louis did not keep his word; they never do. Within 13 months, he made seven more appearances in the ring. People believed he had resisted the erosion of time, and this belief made the older ones among them feel younger. Seventeen years had passed since Louis had knocked out Primo Carnera in his first bout in New York. His share of $4-million in purses had been squandered and there was need to fight again.

This time they made him with Rocky Marciano, who had not had a professional bout until shortly after Louis' abortive retirement in 1948. The fight was scheduled for Madison Square Garden on October 26, 1951.

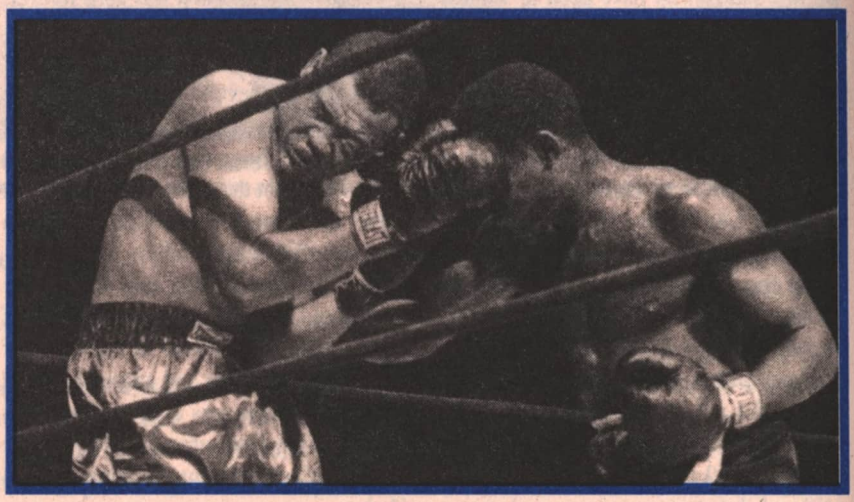
Louis won at least three of the first five rounds, though Marciano did whack him pretty good with a right hand punch behind the left ear toward the end of the first round. Louis had shaken it off and had opened slight cuts over Marciano's eye in the next few rounds.

As almost everybody knows by now, Marciano's major weapon was his right, which was thrown overhand and whistled as it went. Because of this, Louis disdained the use of a left hook, which, when thrown, would render him vulnerable to the overhand right.

Then, abruptly, Louis grew old. By the sixth round he was moving slowly and Marciano began shoving him around in the clinches. Louis' legs had deserted him. In the closing seconds of the seventh round, Louis took a chance and threw a left hook, which caught Marciano solidly on the right side of the jaw. The younger man shook it off and moved in. By this demonstration of disrespect, Marciano pointed the way to Louis' inevitable defeat.

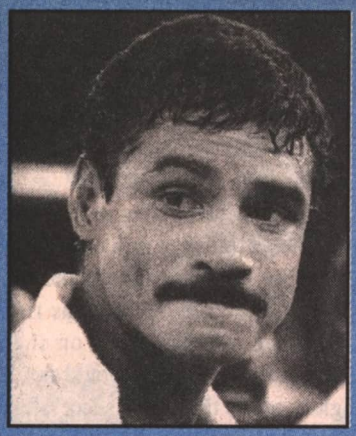
The eighth round was the last of Louis' career. Unpredictably, it was not Marciano's right, but his left hook that caught Louis' head. He went down and took an eight count. When he arose, Marciano pinned him on the ropes and hit him with two more left hooks before throwing the last punch of the fight, a right to the jaw that sent Louis flying through the ropes onto the ring apron, where he lay with only one leg inside the ropes.

The crowd in the Garden sat stunned. Then a horde of Marciano's supporters pushed toward the ring and, smashing typewriters in the working press section, reached their hero.



Charles captured the vacant heavyweight crown against Louis in 1950, battering "The Brown Bomber" and displaying mercy in allowing the fight to go the distance. Even though Charles proved that Louis was no longer a championship-caliber fighter, his comeback continued.

THE RING RATINGS, April 1982



Alexis Arguello

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA
1. Mike Weaver, Los Angeles, CA
2. Gerry Cooney, Huntington, NY
3. Michael Dokes, Akron, OH
4. Greg Page, Louisville, KY
5. Gerrie Coetzee, South Africa
6. Trevor Berbick, Halifax, Canada
7. Leon Spinks, St. Louis, MO
8. James Tillis, Chicago, IL
9. Randall Cobb, Philadelphia, PA
10. Renaldo Snipes, Yonkers, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dwight Braxton, Camden, NJ
1. Michael Spinks, St. Louis, MO
2. Matthew Saad Muhammad, Philadelphia, PA
3. Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Brooklyn, NY
4. Jerry Martin, Phialdelphia, PA
5. Carlos DeLeon, Puerto Rico
6. Marvin Camel, Missoula, MT
7. Murray Sutherland, Bay City, MI
8. Jerry Celestine, New Orleans, LA
9. James Scott, Rahway, NJ
10. Marvin Johnson, Indianapolis, IN

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA
1. Tony Sibson, England
2. Dwight Davison, Detroit, MI
3. Mustafa Hamsho, Syria
4. Wilford Scypion, New York, NY
5. Frank Fletcher, Philadelphia, PA
6. Fulgencio Obelmejias, Venezuela
7. Curtis Parker, Philadelphia, PA
8. Ray Seales, Tacoma, WA
9. Robbie Epps, Clovis, NM
10. Vinnie Curto, Boston, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard, Palmer Park, MD
1. Wilfred Benitez, Puerto Rico
2. Ayub Kalule, Uganda
3. Tony Ayala Jr., San Antonio, TX
4. Maurice Hope, England
5. Carlos Herrera, Argentina
6. Charlie Weir, South Africa
7. Roberto Duran, Panama
8. Gary Guiden, Indianapolis, IN
9. Clint Jackson, Nashville, TN
10. Davey Moore, New York, NY

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard, Palmer Park, MD
1. Thomas Hearns, Detroit, MI
2. Roger Stafford, Philadelphia, PA
3. Pipino Cuevas, Mexico
4. Roberto Duran, Panama
5. Milton McCrory, Detroit, MI
6. Colin Jones, England
7. Bruce Finch, Las Vegas, NV
8. Randy Shields, N. Hollywood, CA
9. Bobby Joe Young, Steubenville, OH
10. Marlon Starling, Hatford, CT

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Aaron Pryor, Cincinatti, OH
1. Saoul Mamby, New York, NY
2. Jo Kimpuani, France
3. Dujuan Johnson, Detroit, MI
4. Miguel Montana, Dominican Republic
5. Johnny Bumphus, Nashville, TN
6. Monroe Brooks, Los Angeles, CA
7. Leroy Haley, Las Vegas, NV
8. Willie Rodriguez, Allentown, PA
9. Steve Hearon, Houston, TX
10. Lennox Blackmore, Guyana

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua
1. Aaron Pryor, Cincinatti, OH
2. Andrew Ganigan, Honolulu, HI
3. Art Frias, Los Angeles, CA
4. Sean O'Grady, Oklahoma City, OK
5. Howard Davis, Jr., Glen Cove, NY
6. Hilmer Kenty, Detroit, MI
7. Rodolfo Gonzalez, Mexico
8. Gonzalo Montellano, Los Angeles, CA
9. Ray Mancini, Youngstown, OH
10. Claude Noel, Trinidad

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Samuel Serrano, Puerto Rico
1. Rolando Navarette, Honolulu, HI
2. Cornelius Boza-Edwards, England
3. Rafael Limon, Mexico
4. Edwin Rosario, Puerto Rico
5. Bobby Chacon, Pacoima, CA
6. Yasutsune Uehara, Japan
7. John Verderosa, Staten Island, NY
8. Johnny Sato, Stockton, CA
9. Ildelfonso Bethelmy, Venezuela
10. Carlos Pinango, Venezuela

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Salvador Sanchez, Mexico
1. Eusebio Pedroza, Panama
2. Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
3. Juan LaPorte, New York, NY
4. Rocky Lockridge, Paterson, NJ
5. Ruben Castillo, Bakersfield, CA
6. Mario Miranda, Colombia
7. Pat Cowdell, England
8. Patrick Ford, Guyana
9. Roberto Rubaldino, Mexico
10. Paul Ferrari, Australia

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
1. Sergio Palma, Argentina
2. Mike Ayala, New York, NY
3. Leo Cruz, Dominican Republic
4. Jaime Garza, Los Angeles, CA
5. Ricardo Cardona, Colombia
6. Juan Meza, Los Angeles, CA
7. Lupe Pintor, Mexico
8. Nicky Perez, Tucson, AZ
9. Roberto Rubaldino, Mexico
10. Soon-Hyun Chung, Korea

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jeff Chandler, Philadelphia, PA
1. Lupe Pintor, Mexico
2. Chul-Ho Kim, Korea
3. Kiko Bejines, Mexico
4. Albert Davila, Los Angeles, CA
5. Oscar Muniz, Los Angeles, CA
6. Johnny Carter, Philadelphia, PA
7. Eijiro Murata, Japan
8. Jose R. Narvaez, Argentina
9. Rafael Orono, Venezuela
10. Hurricane Teru, Japan

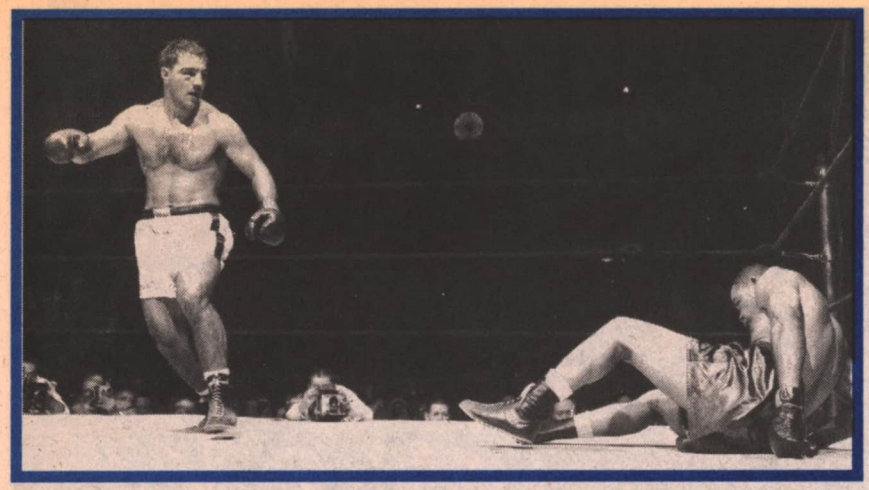
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Antonio Avelar, Mexico
1. Juan Herrera, Mexico
2. Amado Ursua, Mexico
3. Hilario Zapata, Panama
4. Katsuo Tokashiki, Japan
5. Hwan Jin Kim, Korea
6. Rafael Pedroza, Panama
7. Gustavo Ballas, Argentina
8. Candido Tellez, Mexico
9. Luis Ibarra, Panama
10. German Torres, Mexico

Sugar Ray Robinson was in a ringside seat. When Louis went down for the first count, Robinson sensed the inevitable end. He began moving toward the ring; and when the end came, he jumped into the ring and consoled the fallen Louis.

Robinson said, "That's never going to happen to me," and he meant it. But it did. The greater they are, the more reasonable it is to expect that they will be victimized by the need to keep doing what they have been doing for a long time. It happened to such greats as Benny Leonard and Tony Canzoneri. And it has happened to others, not as great. And in all instances the victims tried to come back, they needed money.

The list is long, and not the least on it is Robinson, the peerless one, regarded by many as the finest fighter of the 20th century.

This department remembers taking a walk with Robinson in Las Vegas. Hours earlier, he had fought a draw with Gene Fullmer in a world middleweight title bout. Robinson had held the 160-pound championship five times—after giving up the wel-



Marciano sent Louis down with a left hook in the eighth round, and finished the job shortly after Louis rose to his feet. It was the final fight of Louis' career, a career that should have ended three years earlier after his knockout of Walcott in their rematch.

terweight championship—and was in the 21st year of his time as a professional boxer.

"You through now?" Robinson's companion asked.

"Maybe," he said. "When I'm through, believe me, I'm not going to be fighting for small money in little arenas in one-horse towns. Won't happen to me like it happened to the others. I'll know when to get out."

So he stayed in the game long past his time, for 25 years, well into the fourth decade of his history. His last fight was on November 10, 1965, in Pittsburgh, against Joey Archer, a New York middleweight of considerable skill and stamina.

Several days before the bout, Don Elbaum, a co-promoter, gave a party in honor of Sugar Ray. Elbaum, in Teddy Brenner's phrase, "had a sense of drama and a touch of the poet. He could make more touches in shorter time than anybody else in the business."

Robinson attended the party with Millie Bruce, whom he had recently married. It was a genial occasion, and in the spirit of the party, Elbaum presented a gift to Robinson.

Seriously, Elbaum said, "I've kept the things in this package for 25 years and I thought it appropriate to give them to you tonight."

"Thanks," Robinson said. "What's in the package?"

"I'll open it up and show you," the promoter said. He did and held aloft two boxing gloves. "These gloves," he said to Robinson, "are the very gloves you wore in your very first fight in Madison Square Garden 25 years ago. Don't ask me how I got hold of them, but here they are."

Sugar Ray's eyes filled. Abruptly required to remember how it was a quarter of a century earlier, he was transported into another age. He looked at his wife, Millie, and there were tears in her eyes, too. He tried to speak, but he was all choked up. Al Abrams, a sports editor in Pittsburgh, broke the ice.

"Hey, Ray, put on the old gloves so we can get a picture for the paper," Abrams said.

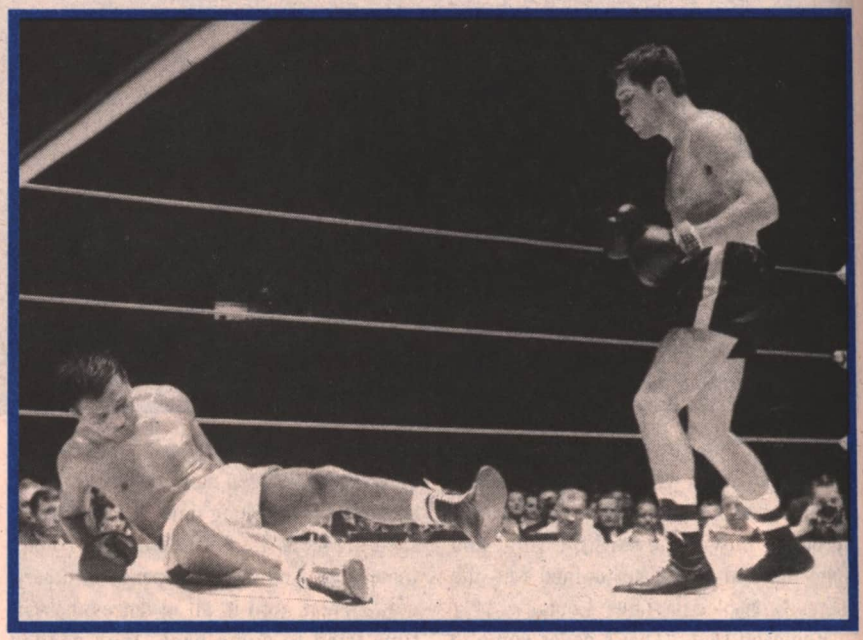
Elbaum was frantic. "No, Ray, no pictures with the gloves on!" the promoter yelled. "Just hold the gloves together to show them. That'll make the picture."

Robinson did not hear Elbaum and tried the gloves on. They were both left-handed. "You S.O.B.," he said to Elbaum. Two nights later, Robinson fought his last fight and was thoroughly defeated by Archer. He did not bother to take his gloves home as souvenirs.

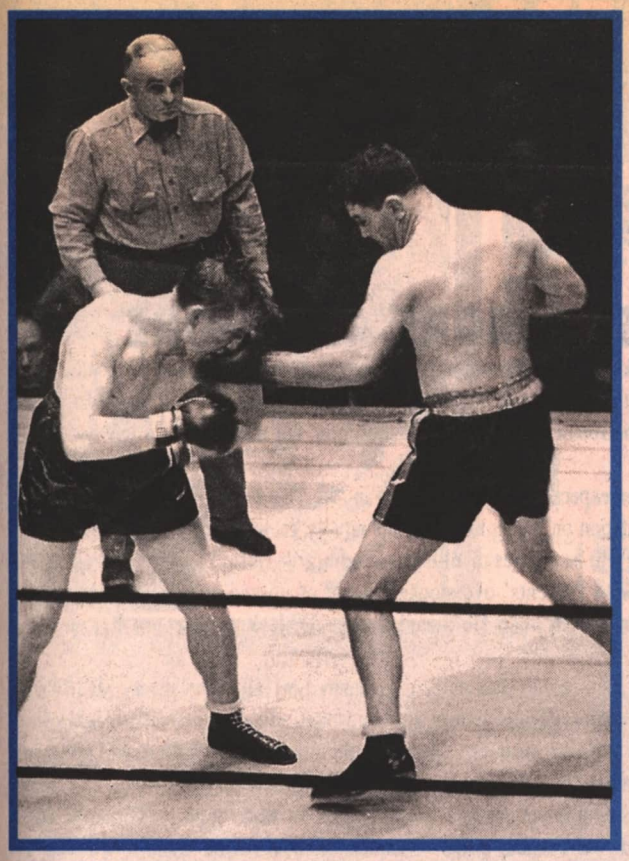
He had stayed too long in the game. In 201 fights, he failed to win only 27 times. Most of his defeats came in the second half of his career, when he was fighting from memory alone. And on the last night, against Archer, he could not bring the glory of his times to a successful conclusion. They never can. They reach too far, take the extra step, and fall.

Jimmy Braddock didn't. After he lost the heavyweight championship to Louis in 1937, Braddock spoke often of retirement. He had become the titleholder in the waning days of his career, an improbable "Cinderella Man" who had come off the home relief rolls to take the title from Max Baer at Madison Square Garden Bowl, the "graveyard of champions."

Braddock's reign lasted for two years. Louis flattened him in his first defense, coming off the floor to achieve his purpose. Then Braddock went back to his modest dwelling in New Jersey, where he sat around and pondered his future, believing he was through.



In a professional career that spanned 25 years, Robinson established himself as perhaps the greatest fighter ever. But like so many others, he didn't know when to quit. Joey Archer won a 10-round decision over Robinson in Sugar Ray's final fight in 1965.



Jim Braddock won his comeback fight, decisioning Tommy Farr in 1938. Ex-heavyweight champ Braddock wisely walked away from the ring for good that night, ending his career on a high note.

His manager, Joe Gould, believed differently. Promoter Mike Jacobs prevailed upon Gould to accept a match for Braddock with Tommy Farr, a Welshman who had gone 15 rounds with Louis in "The Brown Bomber's" first title defense.

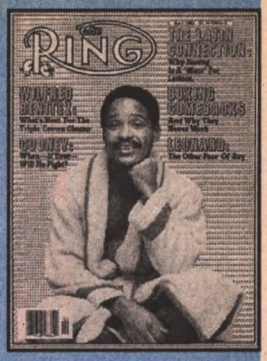
When Farr went into the ring with Braddock in the old Garden, he was a 2-1 favorite. The wonderful old arena was fully populated, and the cream of the political and nether world sat in ringside pews. The crowd was announced as 17,369. Despite a night made raw by slush and rain, $80,654 was in the till, an inordinate sum for the times.

It was a fight worthy of the attention it drew. The *New York Times* described it as a "pulsating battle" in which Farr brought a body attack to Braddock, who responded with his stiff jabs and straight rights. Farr, at 24, seemed the aggressor in the early milling, and was well ahead on points going into the eighth round. But then, as if driven by a need to scale a higher peak, Braddock rallied.

The judges, George LeCron and Charley Lynch, split on the decision: LeCron had it 6-4 for Braddock, while Lynch voted 6-4 in favor of Farr. The referee, Johnny McAvoy, cast a 4-4-2 round score, but gave the decision to Braddock, "apparently and justifiably on the strength of the glorious rally Braddock staged in the last two rounds," according to the *Times*.

Braddock remembered the cheers. He never again pulled on gloves in earnest combat. A modest man, he was not among the over-reachers, of whom there were many, all of whom give the word "comeback" a dirty name. ■

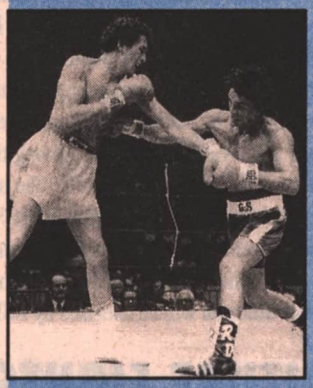
THE RING, April 1982



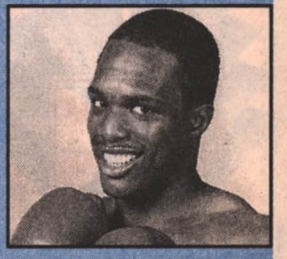
The Cover: WBC junior middleweight champion Wilfred Benitez was in the midst of his third title run, having just beaten Roberto Duran to retain the belt. THE RING asked the question: "What's next for the triple crown champ?" The answer arrived in December of 1982 when Thomas Hearns defeated Benitez by decision, ending what would be Benitez' final title reign.

Cooney Island: With Gerry Cooney's long-awaited showdown with WBC heavyweight champion Larry Holmes pushed back 12 weeks to June 11 because of his back problems, the skeptics were beginning to wonder if the fight would ever come off. The June 11 date stuck, though, and Holmes retained his title by 13th-round TKO in a battle that was well worth the wait.

The Real Sugar Ray: Who is Sugar Ray Leonard? Is he just another media creation? What is the world welterweight champion like outside the ring? THE RING provided an inside look at boxing's most popular character, one of the most accomplished champions of all-time.



In Search of Respect: Edwin Viruet was returning to boxing but experiencing the same old problems: Nobody wanted to fight him, and he still felt he wasn't getting his due respect. Pictured en route to a decision loss to Duran in '75, Viruet expressed his views bluntly: "Arguello, he don't want to fight me. I fought Duran in his prime. For me, now he is a piece of garbage."



Fighter Of The Month: Although he was only 8-0, Davey Moore was granted a title shot against WBA junior middleweight champion Tidashi Mihara on February 2 in Japan. Moore knocked out the champ on his own turf in the sixth round to capture the title.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Nigel Collins

AMERICA PRESENTS ... MORE AND MORE

It has become such a large presence, it seems like **America Presents** has been around a lot longer than 12 months. But it was in January 1997 that the Denver-based promotional outfit launched its bid to become a major player in the boxing industry. And according to Chief Operating Officer **Dan Goossen**, a year after its inception, the company is "exactly where we projected we'd be."

America Presents promoted 32 shows in '97 and expects to stage even more in '98. Thanks to a five-year contract with Fox Sports Network, it has a sound financial foundation on which to expand its rapidly growing empire. Among the more intriguing projects for the new year will be a series of all-heavyweight cards called "Ton Of Heavyweights," which will be a vehicle for America Presents' overstocked stable of up-and-coming heavies such as **Lawrence Clay-Bey**, **Monte Barrett**, **Duncan Dokiwari**, **Lance Whitaker**, **Shazzon Bradley**, and **Wolfgramm**.

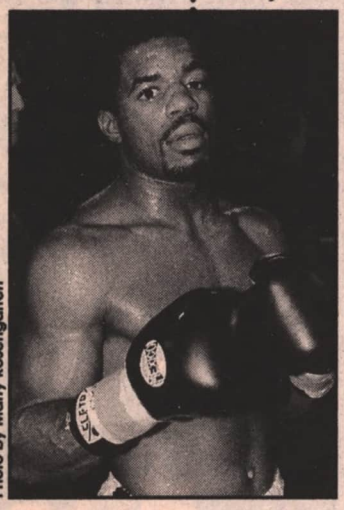


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Reid: America Presents' "American Dream" on HBO

A couple of America Presents' high-profile stars will be co-featured on **HBO** on January 31. IBF middleweight champion **Bernard Hopkins** defends against former welter and junior middleweight champ **Simon Brown**, and the promoter's biggest investment, Olympic gold medalist **David Reid**, will be making his seventh pro start in the other televised bout.

Other America Presents fighters with important dates coming up in the near future are IBF light heavyweight titlist **William Guthrie** and two-division former champion **Michael Nunn**. Guthrie will make his first defense on February 6 in Palm Springs, California. Goossen says the challenger will be either **Merqui Sosa** (another America Presents fighter) or **Reggie Johnson**. The next day, Nunn will box **Graciano Rocchigiani** in Berlin, Germany, for the vacant WBC 175-pound title that **Roy Jones** relinquished in order to campaign as a cruiserweight.

LISTEN UP

Oscar De La Hoya will defend the WBC welterweight title against mandatory challenger **Patrick Charpentier** on February 28 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on HBO, according to **Top Rank** publicist **Lee Samuels** ... Fans who have visited the **International Boxing Hall Of Fame** in Canastota, New York, in the past, might want to consider another trip this summer. Prior to the 1998 Hall of Fame Weekend, the Hall will be putting $14,000 in state grant money to good use, reconfiguring old exhibits and creating new ones. Among the recently acquired items on display for the first time will be **Bat Battalino's** robe and featherweight championship belt, **Ricardo Lopez'** boxing boots, **Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns'** trunks, and **Wilfred Benitez'** welterweight championship belt ... Originally penciled in for HBO, it now looks like **Mark Johnson's** defense of the IBF flyweight title against **Arthur Johnson** will be televised by **ESPN** in February.

Mark Johnson: Takes on Arthur Johnson on ESPN

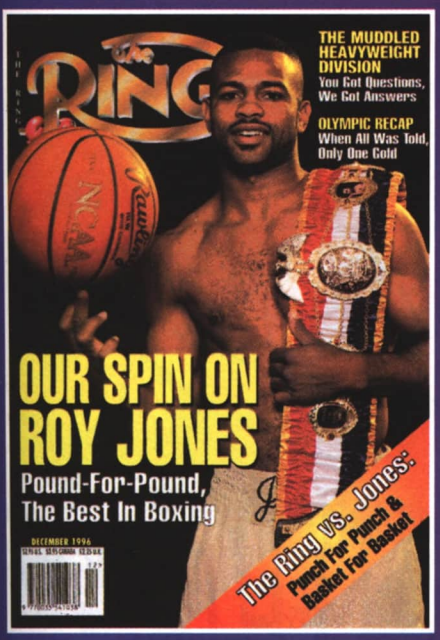
FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

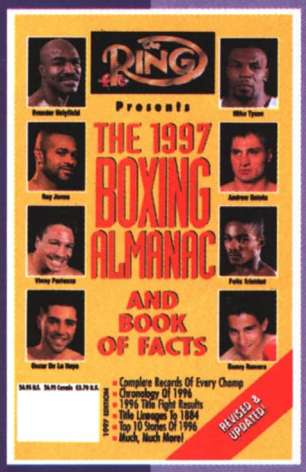
VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Evander Holyfield	Lennox Lewis	7-5	The public will bet Evander. I like Lewis
Ike Quartey	Jose Luis Lopez	2-1	Ike will beat him next time
Shane Mosley	Steve Johnston	2½-1	Two very good fighters
Hasim Rahman	Shannon Briggs	9-5	Briggs hasn't shown much
Floyd Mayweather Jr.	Augie Sanchez	3-1	Augie is tough, but Floyd may be the best prospect in the game

Las Vegas Hilton



GET THE RING ALMANAC FREE WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!



Boxing fans raved about *The 1996 Ring Boxing Almanac And Book Of Facts*. And now the second edition has been published, completely revised and updated. The editors of THE RING have put together the ultimate resource tool, combining a complete review of 1996 with a historical overview of boxing history. The 196-page, digest-sized edition includes: Records and mini-profiles of boxing's world champions (as of January 1) ... A chronology of the top boxing news of '96 ... A complete listing of '96 title fights ... Complete title lineages of all 17 weight divisions, and much more.

The Ring Almanac quickly sold out on most newsstands last year, and now we are offering it free with a one-year subscription to "The Bible Of Boxing"!

Subscribe to THE RING today and receive ...

- 13 issues a year (that's one every four weeks!)
- Up to **25% off** the newsstand price
- All four **expanded editions** included with your subscription
- Guaranteed **delivery** right to your home
- And, of course, *The Ring Almanac And Book Of Facts*

Here's what you'll find in each issue:

- Complete coverage by boxing's best writers and photographers on the fights, fighters, and personalities that make boxing the most electrifying sport. Plus ...
- Informative features: New Faces ... Round One ... Come Out Writing ... Looking Ahead ... Collector's Notebook
- Columns by renowned boxing journalists
- THE RING'S Top 10 ratings in 16 weight classes and the records of all ranked fighters
- THE RING Classic: A selected story from THE RING'S 76-year-old archives, including THE RING ratings for that year and a summary of the issue in which the story appeared

SAVE UP TO 25%!!
(Please check one)

YES! I would like to subscribe to THE RING.

- ☐ I have enclosed $32.45 for a 13-issue subscription
- ☐ I have enclosed $60.80 for a 26-issue subscription
- ☐ I wish to receive *The Ring Almanac* as a bonus to my subcription and have enclosed $2 to cover postage and handling
- ☐ I would like to order *The Ring Almanac* only and have enclosed $7 as payment in full

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please specify method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

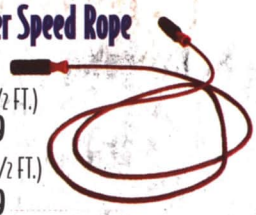
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Prices apply in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $42.85 for 13 issues ($64.95 airmail), $81.60 for 26 issues ($125.80 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. *The Ring Almanac* offer is valid with this order form only. Offer expires January 31, 1998. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4602/10-97

WHO ELSE...

Leather Speed Rope



#JR7 (7½ FT.) $11.99
#JR8 (8½ FT.) $12.99
#JR9 (9½ FT.) -- $13.99

...gives you FREE merchandise with every order?

FUN GLOVES
#FG-E $159.00
(Set of four gloves)

...continually remains the most affordable, yet quality conscious company in the entire industry?

BOXING TRUNKS
#ROCKY-1 $44.00

MAIZE BALL
#MBW $22.99

NYLON BOXING SHOES
#LBS $46.99

Red, White, Blue or Black

...offers the capabilities to customize and tailor its products to your needs?

THE INCREDI-BAG
#BB-5 $34.99

ALL LEATHER MEDICINE BALL

#MB-M (12 LBS.) --$44.99

TRAINING TOPS
#TTOP $11.99

SIZES: Small through XX-Large

COLORS: Red, Black or Ash Grey

#TTRK $17.99

TRAINING TRUNKS

...supplies you with a 160 page color catalog full of boxing products?

POWER BAG GLOVES
#PBG $46.00

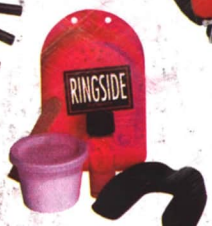
Double Double End Bags
(Mexican Style)
#DDEB $59.99

...provides unlimited access to a customer service staff that is driven to give knowledgeable answers, to be helpful and always friendly?

Mexican Style HANDWRAPS
#MHW $5.99

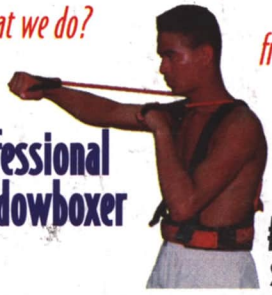
...does what we do?

...is constantly offering the newest technology and "cutting-edge" innovations?



Mouthpiece Kit - #KIT $6.99
Unique form system allows you to make a dentist fitted mouthpiece.

Professional Shadowboxer
#PSWB $45.99



FREE STANDING HEAVYBAG

#FHB $259.99

(Plus additional $25.00 shipping)

ULTIMATE BAG GLOVES
#UBG -- $69.99 (Available in M, L, XL)

There really is no question

...gears their research and development to the improvement of safety features and overall advancement of the sport?

RINGSIDE is it!

913-888-1719

Call for your FREE Catalog

P.O. Box 14171 ★ Lenexa, Kansas 66285-4171